MORE STUDENTS SEEK FINANCIAL AID, PG 3

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London cops nab suspect in $65M heist

CRIME Police said yesterday they have arrested a suspect in connection with a daring daytime heist that netted $65 million worth of jewelry from a prominent London diamond merchant last week.

Police said the 50-year-old man, who was subsequently released on bail, is not one of two dapper dressers captured in security camera footage released by Scotland Yard Tuesday.

Police said the men made off with dozens of high-end rings, bracelets, necklaces and watches with a retail value of 40 million pounds, or $65 million. No one was hurt in the robbery, one of the biggest in British history.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Comment pg 12

Ode to gay boyfriends

Food pg 28

A new twist on burgers

ShareYourViews
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Movies **Glourious premiere**

SARAH DEA/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Director Quentin Tarantino plays with an action figure of himself as he and actor Eli Roth arrive on the red carpet last night for the Canadian premiere of Inglourious Basterds at Scotiabank Theatre. The film officially hits theatres Aug. 21.

Feds under fire

McGuinty blames Ottawa for failure to help detained woman

Ottawa has no excuse for failing to help a Toronto woman who was detained in Kenya for nearly three months over false claims that she was an impostor, Premier Dalton McGuinty said yesterday.

"Something is fundamentally wrong when we can't count on the Canadian government to stand up for Canadians," he said. "I'm not sure I can put it any more directly than that."

Canadians expect their government to come to their aid when they're in distress, no matter where they are, McGuinty added.

"That didn't happen in this particular circumstance, and there's no excuse for that."

The Liberal premier was referring to Suaad Hagi Mohamud, 31, who has been stranded in Kenya since May.

The Somalian-born woman was unable to leave the country after authorities said her lips did not match her four-year-old passport photo.

Canadian consular officials called her an impostor, voided her passport and turned her case over to Kenya for prosecution.

It wasn't until DNA tests confirmed her identity Monday that the federal government began preparing emergency travel documents that would permit her to return to Toronto and reunite with her 12-year-old son.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Angry over lack of action

- Suaad Hagi Mohamud, who completed the forms to obtain the emergency travel documents yesterday, said she's still upset the Canadian government did little to help her. "Well, of course I'm angry," she said in a telephone interview from Nairobi. "All of these problems they put me through, I'm supposed to be angry."

Woman, two boys struck by lightning

Two young boys were rushed to hospital in critical condition yesterday after seemingly harmless overcast skies flared abruptly and sent a lightning bolt crashing into a Brampton soccer field.

The mother of one of the boys, ages four and six, was in stable condition following the lightning strike.

Allan Hughes, whose home backs onto the park, was left shaken hours after he attempted to resuscitate one of the boys, who didn't appear to respond to CPR.

"There was nothing. There were no signs of life," Hughes, 25, said, pointing to a small but deep crater in the ground where he found the group.

"His little eyes were wide open, blue eyes just staring at me."

It was about 2:30 p.m., when Hughes was startled by an "abnormally loud bang."

"It was the loudest bang I've ever heard," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hospital

- Both boys were in serious condition when they were transported to Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children, said Brad Bowie, a spokesman for the Peel Regional Paramedic Service. The younger boy was transported by land ambulance with a critical care team while the older boy was airlifted out, Bowie said.

†Speed performance claims based on comparing download speed of Rogers 3.5G HSPA network and competitors' 1xEvdo networks within Rogers HSPA coverage area. Speed may vary depending on the handset, topography and environmental conditions, network congestion and other factors. HSPA network not available in all areas. See rogers.com/rocket for coverage details.
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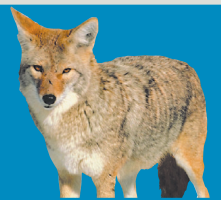
Alleged theft ring participant arrested
Police have arrested a man alleged to be part of a ring that committed "countless" thefts across the GTA, often by distracting their targets. Charged is Deandri Raymono Caicedo, 20, of Toronto. A man and a youth are still sought. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Local



Beaches coyote still on the loose

Roughly six months after it snatched a small dog in broad daylight, a Beaches-area coyote continues to roam free, to the chagrin of some of its neighbours. City workers have unsuccessfully tried to catch or deter the animal. "At this point we have very few reports of sightings and no indications of any threatening behaviour from the coyote," said city spokeswoman Patricia Trott. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Tomorrow's Metro

Urban Compass
John Sewell breaks down the issues affecting Torontonians.

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WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video Canada's health minister blasts opposition for playing politics with H1N1 virus at **metronews.ca/canada**

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Student aid requests on rise

University registrars blame high unemployment for financial troubles

More Ontario students are seeking financial aid this September to pay for their college and university tuition after a bleak summer of unemployment and a rocky financial year, which also saw many of their parents out of work.

The Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities says Ontario Student Assistance Program applications are up 5.7 per cent this year for colleges and 4.6 per cent for universities.

Patrick O'Jorman, a spokesperson for the ministry, says this corresponds with the total number of people applying to schools.

But financial aid officials at some universities in the province say students are facing more financial hurdles this year than previous years to pay for their tuition. The University of Windsor has seen a 30 per cent increase in financial aid requests compared to last year. University registrars are pointing to a record high student unemployment rate as the main reason young people are seeking financial assistance. THE CANADIAN PRESS

12 Financial aid officials at the University of Toronto say there is a 12 per cent increase in financial aid applications for the school year.

EMS veteran facing criminal charges

STRIKE A paramedic accused of stealing an ambulance during the city workers' strike has been suspended without pay for 30 days — the most severe punishment short of dismissal, Torstar News Service has learned.

Glenn Fontaine

Glenn Fontaine, ambulance unit chairman of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, was disciplined by Toronto EMS for the June 22 incident, in which an ambulance was abandoned outside city hall with a union placard on its rear and its lights flashing.

The 26-year EMS veteran has also been criminally charged with two counts of taking a vehicle without consent and two counts of mischief to property.

EMS spokesman Peter Macintyre said if an employee were convicted of a serious offence, he would probably be fired. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Megabus **Double-decker deal**

PAWEL DWULIT/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Stagecoach CEO Brian Souter poses with the Coach Girls beside the new Megabus double-decker coach in downtown Toronto yesterday. Stagecoach Canada unveiled 15 brand new double-decker buses that will take passengers along the Toronto-Kingston-Montreal route. The buses feature free Wi-Fi, power outlets and DVD and video capabilities. The company is currently offering 10,000 seats at a discount fare of $1.

News in brief

WEAPONS CHARGE Two men previously prohibited by a court from carrying firearms are charged, along with a woman, of gun and drug charges after police stopped a car near Jane Street and Sheppard Avenue West. Police say they seized two semi-automatic weapons. Jamar Francis, 20, of Toronto, Clayton McFarlane, 27, of Brampton and Zenovique Wilson, 23, of London, Ont., face charges. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

$150M at stake in office towers ruling

PROPERTY TAX A lawyer for some of Toronto's biggest office towers says he's advising his clients to appeal a court ruling that would deny the buildings about $150 million in property tax refunds.

A dozen of the downtown towers housing the headquarters of Canada's big banks plus the head offices of many big corporations and professional firms had won a ruling last year that would have slashed their tax bill substantially.

But a three-judge panel of Ontario Divisional Court has struck down the ruling by the Assessment Review Board, calling it "unreasonable, approaching the absurd."

The judges have said the issue, which consumed more than 60 days of hearings before a two-member panel of the board, should be returned to the review board, and argued in front of a different panel.

"We're obviously disappointed," said Richard Poole, lawyer for several of the tower owners.

Poole said he is suggesting that his clients seek leave to appeal at the Ontario Court of Appeal. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Meaning

- Part of the case hinges on an argument over the meaning of "fee simple, if unencumbered" in the Assessment Act. The towers say that means the buildings should be valued as empty shells, with no tenants.

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Police release description of suspicious vehicle

Police say the gunman who killed 22-year-old Tevane Sean Lennon on Monday night was in a dark 1998-2000 Honda Civic with a low-rider frame, factory hubcaps and rear spoilers. Lennon was hit with a spray of gunfire about 11 p.m. near his home on Sultan Pool Drive. One bullet pierced his heart. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

eHealth hiring was a 'mistake'

Premier denies ignoring advice

Premier Dalton McGuinty says hiring Sarah Kramer to run eHealth Ontario was a "mistake" that he deeply regrets.

McGuinty yesterday distanced himself from both Kramer and her mentor Dr. Alan Hudson, head of Ontario's drive to reduce healthcare wait times, and former eHealth chair.

Sarah Kramer

"In hindsight it is obvious that we made a mistake," McGuinty told reporters at Northern Secondary School.

The premier, who charged Hudson with fixing the province's woeful electronic health records strategy, said his wait-times guru convinced him Kramer was the best candidate.

McGuinty emphasized he did not hear any objections to her hiring.

"Honestly, Dr. Hudson was a strong influence in all of this. I relied heavily on him," the premier said. "He is the No. 1 guy in Canada when it comes to wait times … He made it clear to me that if he was going to take on additional responsibility with electronic health records he thought Sarah Kramer would be indispensable."

His comments followed a published report that the premier intervened in Kramer's appointment as CEO over the objection of senior civil servants.

Meanwhile, eHealth is hunting for a search firm to recruit a candidate for the agency's top job, said agency spokesperson Deanna Allen.

Allen did not know how much the contract would be worth.

Kramer and Hudson left eHealth in June. Former hospital president Rob Devitt is the interim CEO.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

High in the sky **Washing CN Tower's windows**

ADRIEN VECZAN/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Kevin Pitre cleans the CN Tower's window from a cage on rails in Toronto yesterday. Pitre works for the company Solar, and has been cleaning the CN Tower's windows for the past 12 years. They usually do it eight times per year, skipping the winter months.

Officer met Mafia godfather, OPP says

POLICE A 28-year veteran OPP officer at the centre of a justice corruption scandal met with Canada's "Mafia godfather" and then lied about it to his superiors, according to allegations levelled against him by the police force.

Mike Rutigliano made a brief appearance at a disciplinary hearing at Ontario Provincial Police headquarters yesterday to face a discreditable conduct charge under the Police Services Act.

The charge relates to a 2002 meeting in Montreal that Rutigliano "arranged and attended with members and associates of the Rizzuto traditional crime group, regarding a jewelry store in Woodbridge, Ontario," say the particulars of the allegations.

Vito Rizzuto is currently serving a prison sentence in the United States in connection with gangland killings.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Injection site not so soon: Councillor

DRUGS Toronto is still a long way from getting supervised drug consumption sites, says the chair of the Toronto Drug Strategy.

"What was approved was that we would investigate it, not that there would be a site for sure," Coun. Gord Perks said yesterday.

Launched more than a year ago, the Toronto and Ottawa Supervised Consumption Assessment will evaluate whether there is a need in the two cities for staffed medical clinics where drug addicts can inject or use illegal drugs.

Advocates for supervised consumption sites say the facilities help reduce substance abuse, drug overdoses and the spread of infectious disease.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

STRIKE FALLOUT Coun. Sandra Bussin, who represents the east-end neighbourhood near the Ted Reeve arena, said yesterday that she wants to take that site off any future list of dumping grounds.

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Woman arrested after man found stabbed

A 32-year-old man was taken to hospital early yesterday after being stabbed in the chest. Police were called to Islington Avenue just north of Lake Shore Boulevard West at around 3:30 a.m. by a man claiming to have been stabbed. Police have arrested a 35-year-old woman. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Pipe dream for players?

Teens say tourney, scouts promised, company says no

Police are investigating whether 60 Canadian hockey players were defrauded after an expensive trip to Europe allegedly fell flat on promises to showcase their skills for professional scouts.

Billed as a "dream" opportunity, parents say their sons — mostly from Ontario — ponied up thousands of dollars each in exchange for what they believed would be a potentially career-advancing tournament in France.

They say they were told by Ontario Central Scouting the tournament could lead to the chance to play in Europe for one to four years, if the scouts liked what they saw.

When the group of players, most of whom are in their late teens, arrived in Paris, however, there were no international teams, no scouts and no tournament.

"I felt like I just got kicked in the gut."
Jordan Lass, hockey player

In an interview yesterday with CTV, player Jordan Lass of Kitchener, Ont., called the trip a huge letdown.

"I felt like I just got kicked in the gut," Lass said.

Const. Adam Minnion with Peel Region police said investigators haven't yet drawn conclusions on whether it is a fraud or civil matter.

Officers began investigating several days ago when parents complained to them that their sons had paid $3,500 for a trip that hadn't panned out as expected. They're now working on gathering information from all the players involved, most of whom live within a 200 to 300 kilometre radius of the Toronto area.

A spokesman for Ontario Central Scouting says the players have nothing to complain about.

"In terms of what they were promised, in terms of the contracts they signed, pretty much everything was delivered," Victor Criscuolo told CTV.

The parents and players all signed a letter that outlined what they would get for their money, including airfare, accommodation, breakfast and four guaranteed games, Criscuolo said. The letter makes no mention of international tournaments, he added.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MICHAEL STUPARYK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Faye Lyons from CAA launches 7th annual Worst Roads competition at a Petro Canada station at Bathurst and Steeles.

Makeover for Steeles

Sometimes the road to love can be long and, in the case of Steeles Avenue, it has also been patched, lined and rutted.

But Toronto is on the brink of showing some big love to its most maligned street, by way of a major makeover that could begin as early as the fall, says Gary Welsh, the city's general manager of transportation services.

The street dividing Toronto and York Region has topped the Canadian Automobile Association list of Ontario's worst roads three times out of six.

Yesterday, the CAA launched its 2009 worst roads campaign at the corner of Bathurst and Steeles to highlight the lack of maintenance.

But pending federal infrastructure stimulus funding approval, Toronto plans to go ahead with a $10 million resurfacing "of as much of Steeles as is practically possible," Welsh said yesterday.

"We need to tell our politicians they need to make our road infrastructure improvements a priority," said CAA spokeswoman Faye Lyons, who put the cost of overhauling Steeles at about $100 million.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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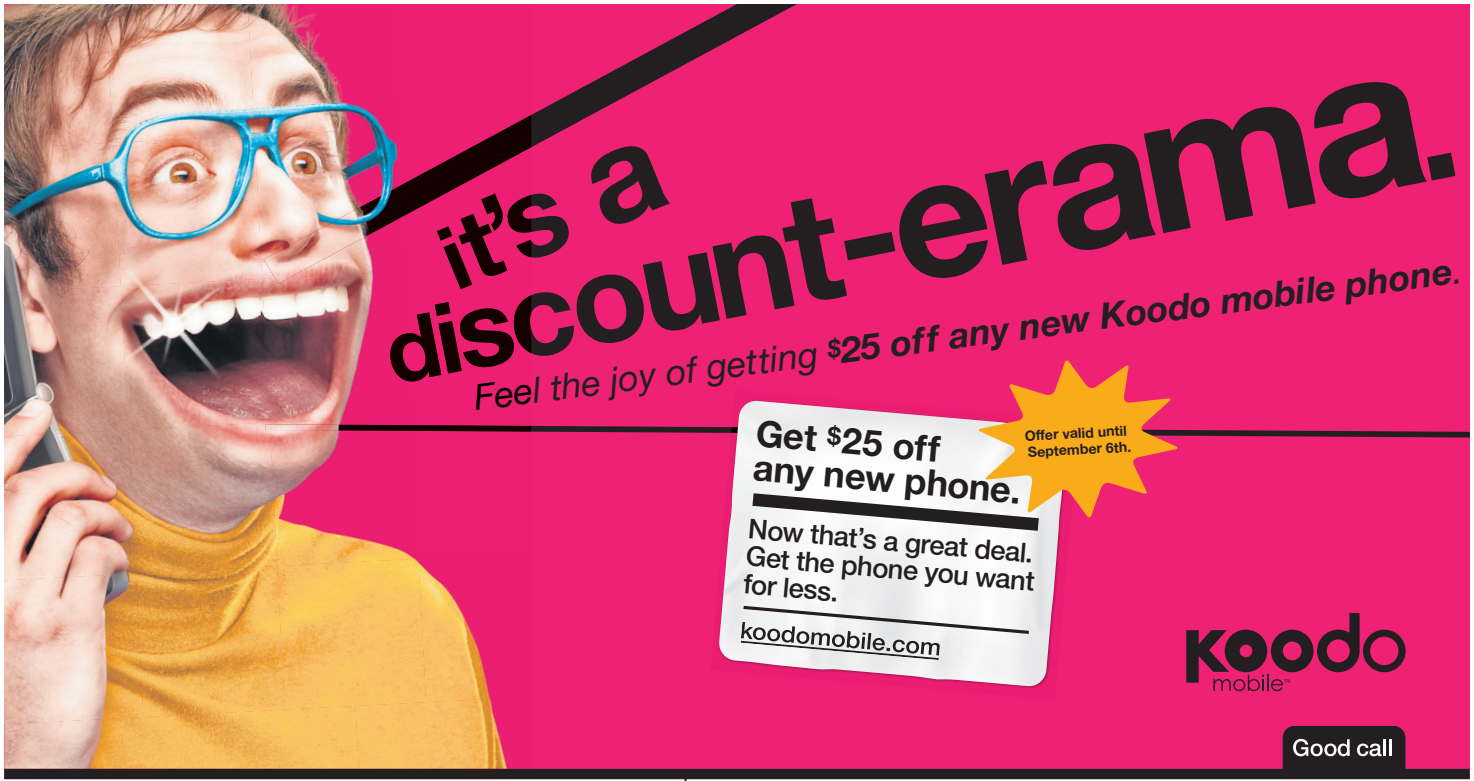
News in brief

STRIKE The final tally on the costs of the 39-day civic strike is due next month, but unlike the 2002 walkout, city officials expect to see some savings in the end. While the city faces extensive strike-related costs the length of the walkout means the city saved on wages for the 30,000 striking workers. To date, the city estimates it has paid out about $202,000 in overtime wages for residential garbage pickup since it resumed last Tuesday. That's in addition to the $475,000 in overtime hundreds of employees were paid to clean up the 26 stinking temporary dump sites after the strike ended.

IDENTITY Someone who looks identical to an 18-year-old Whitby woman is using the victim's identification to cash fraudulent cheques made out to her name, at various cash-advance stores in Toronto, Hamilton, Kitchener, and Durham and York Regions. The victim reported she had lost her IDs in January 2008 but it wasn't until July this year when the fraud started, said Det. Const. Doris Carriere of Durham police. The woman is described as an 18 to 20-year-old with fair-skin. Police have posted photos of her on their website.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



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FIVE-STAR SAFETY RATING◊

G3 Wave 5-Door SE Model shown with CF5, D52 and PW8††

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Coast guard rescues government workers from boat

CFB Trenton sent two coast guard vessels to rescue two Ministry of Natural Resources employees from a boat in trouble in Lake Ontario just south of Brighton, Ont., Tuesday night after getting a distress call at 10 p.m. The boat sank in shallow water a short time later. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Duceppe wants crackdown on fraudsters

Bloc Québécois Leader Gilles Duceppe, left, wants the federal government to crack down on economic crimes. Duceppe said during a visit to Montreal that current laws against fraud aren't tough enough. He says the government isn't doing enough to help victims. Duceppe denies the opposition is blocking attempts to toughen laws. The Bloc leader also dismissed rumours that he is planning to step down. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Caps sought on oilsands

Emissions blamed for acid rain

Environmentalists want Ottawa to set caps on emissions from Alberta's oilsands that are likely responsible for acid rain over northern Saskatchewan's rivers and lakes.

Alberta's oilsands are located just west of the boundary between the two provinces. The massive industrial plants emit more than 150,000 tonnes of acid-rain-causing gases every year and previous studies have suggested that about 70 per cent of those gases blow into Saskatchewan.

The province has been monitoring rainfall in the La Loche area just across from Fort McMurray. Results from nine samples over 18 months that ended last March showed an average pH level of 4.93. That level is about three times as acidic as unpolluted rainfall and about the same acidity as a cup of black coffee.

70 The percentage of acid rain-causing gases produced in Alberta's oilsands that blow into Saskatchewan, according to studies.

Alberta Environment — which has been monitoring the area for 40 years — says acid in both the rain and the soil is within acceptable limits. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Flu meeting triggers verbal spat

Flu Outbreak

OTTAWA Health Minister Leona Aglukkaq's attempt to leave sooner than expected from a special Parliamentary committee meeting, examining preparedness for influenza A (H1N1), also known as swine flu, set off political fireworks yesterday.

A verbal tussle broke out between Liberal MP Carolyn Bennett and Conservative chairwoman Joy Smith, and ended with threats to suspend the meeting.

"This is unacceptable," Bennett complained of the minister's departure.

Smith, a backbench Manitoba Conservative, would have none of it and said it wasn't "appropriate to continue in this manner when we have this very important issue to discuss today."

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Health Minister Leona Aglukkaq and public health officer David Butler-Jones appear as witnesses at a Commons health committee on Parliament Hill in Ottawa yesterday.

Cooler heads prevailed and the meeting went on, but it was just the sort of political spat Aglukkaq had bemoaned earlier in the day.

She had told reporters she was worried that political theatrics would trump all of the policy and planning that's been underway.

"They do not need to play politics," Aglukkaq said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business aid

- Health Minister Leona Aglukkaq says the federal government has granted a $926,600 contract to the International Centre for Infectious Diseases in Winnipeg to develop tools and strategies that small- and medium-sized businesses could use to plan for the flu.

News in brief

REUNION Harold Martell and Herbert Naugler, two Second World War veterans who became fast friends after they joined up to fight, lost touch 63 years ago. Neither knew for all these years that they lived within a 90-minute drive of each other in Nova Scotia. However, Naugler said he recently noticed Martell's name in a story in a newspaper and had his son search for his old friend on the Internet. The two reunited in Antigonish, N.S., last week.

ADDICTION A new report says people employed in Canada's oil and natural gas industry are seeking help for alcohol dependency in extremely high numbers and face working conditions that put extraordinary stress on families. The study by the Shepell.fgi Research Group says in the past three years the number of energy industry employees seeking counselling for drinking problems is up by 481 per cent. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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One killed, three injured in Highway 7 collision

One man was killed and three others were taken to hospital after a head-on collision on Highway 7 near Peterborough. Police say a westbound car carrying two men collided with an eastbound car carrying a man and a woman. THE CANADIAN PRESS

'I just want them back'

One year later, a mother aches for her missing kids

The last thing Dominic Maryk said to his mom as he hugged her goodbye was, "Don't worry. It's going to be OK."

That was almost a year ago and Emily Cablek hasn't seen her eight-year-old son or his six-year-old sister Abby since.

Police say the two children could even be out of the country after they disappeared last August during a visit with their father Kevin Maryk.

"It's two pieces of my soul and my heart missing," the 27-year-old Winnipeg mother said yesterday.

"I just want them back."

Police took the rare step of holding a news conference to mark the anniversary of the disappearance.

Investigators are calling it parental abduction.

They say Kevin Maryk, 38, is likely with his 20-year-old nephew, Cody McKay. They have issued a warrant for McKay's arrest, on top of the outstanding warrant for Kevin Maryk.

Officers suspect people know where the youngsters are but aren't sharing that with police.

Cablek directed her plea at McKay yesterday, urging him to do the "right thing for Dominic and Abby."

The last year, Cablek said, has been agony.

"You hope for a phone call. You feel lost."

Still, she said, she's never going to give up looking for her children.

Police say they haven't given up either. Det. Clyde Raven said they've been approached by the TV show America's Most Wanted. They are also posting videos on YouTube.

"This has gone on long enough," Raven said.

"It's gotten to a point where it's ridiculous. We need to get these kids back."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

PENNY HEPBURN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

They left a gap in mom's heart

Dominic Maryk and his sister Abby disappeared on a visit with their father. Police say they could even be out of the country.

Have you seen these men?

Police say the father, Kevin Maryk, left, is likely with his nephew, Cody McKay. Warrants have been issued for both of them.

Church cools off furor over Israel

CONTROVERSY The United Church has backed away from material underlying resolutions at its annual conference that condemn Israel's treatment of Palestinians.

The resolutions themselves are still on the table.

But 400 delegates to the general council in Kelowna, B.C., have voted to repudiate language in background documents Jewish leaders called anti-Semitic.

"The 40th general council repudiates and regrets language used in the background materials provided to the resolutions, which is provocative, unbalanced and hurtful," the motion reads.

The material for one resolution claims some MPs are dual Canadian-Israeli citizens and therefore have questionable loyalties.

It also says MPs have taken Israeli-sponsored junkets that "might be called bribes."

Bernie Farber, chief executive officer of the Canadian Jewish Congress, said from Kelowna: "I can certainly live with the manner in which this was handled."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

"I can certainly live with the manner in which this was handled."
Bernie Farber

News in brief

POT BUST Mounties hiked and biked to bust a marijuana grow-op hidden on Mount Seymour on Vancouver's North Shore. They hacked down the plants and hauled away equipment.

PENSIONS The Canada Pension Plan Investment Board says the value of its funds rose to $116.6 billion in the April-June period of fiscal 2010, an increase of $11.1 billion.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Comment

Saluting gay boyfriends

I have a lot of gay male friends. I'm not exactly sure how I became such a fruit fly, but it probably has to do with the fact that I enjoy being around brilliant, interesting, quirky and hilarious people. And there happen to be an inordinate number of gay men who fit the bill.

When a gay male in your life transcends the confines of ordinary friendship, they become something known as The Gay Boyfriend.

I am lucky enough to have three.

I met Ben in university. He taught me about wine and men and crème brûlée and The Pet Shop Boys. Ben has the body of a Russian gymnast, but the eyes and smile of a mischievous child on Christmas morning. He recently moved to Montreal, for work and for love. My life will be decidedly less colourful without him around.

I met Tony during grad school. He's smart, fun and absurdly well read. We share a fascination with French culture and a top-secret love of Evita. He is my karaoke life partner (nobody does Summer Nights like we do Summer Nights). With his artfully mussed hair and routine self-deprecation, Tony reminds me of an anime hero who hasn't yet realized his superpower.

"When a gay male in your life transcends the confines of ordinary friendship, they become something known as The Gay Boyfriend."

Last but not least is Phil, my work spouse. He makes me laugh until I cry on a regular basis and transforms the daily grind into a delight. He has a French bulldog named Francine. He sings soaring solos in a gospel choir. He has a laugh unlike any you have ever heard. He is one of the best dudes I know.

There are several things that Gay Boyfriends offer that The Boyfriend and/or The Straight Male Platonic Friend often cannot:

1. They find sports boring and would never force you to watch a game.

2. They are more emotional and intuitive than most straight men, so they do not judge you for your occasional "girl moments."

3. They revere Madonna as a demigod (The Gay Boyfriend downloaded her new single Celebration eons before you did. For the record.)

4. They find levity and hope in the most depressing of scenarios.

5. When they pour you a drink, there is no ulterior motive.

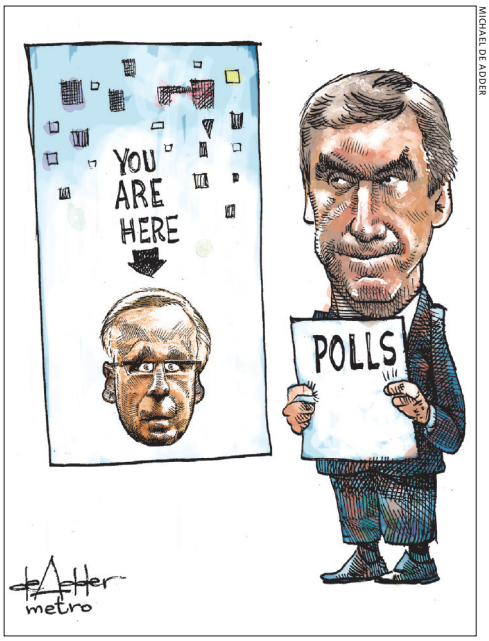
6. They have neat shoes.

Gay Boyfriends everywhere, consider this your valentine. Bless your brave, brash, jovial, generous, vibrant, filthy, fierce and utterly fabulous hearts.

You are adored.

Cue Celebration.

Sofi Papamarko is a 20-something writer based in Toronto. Her heroes include Desmond Morris and Nancy Sinatra.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Views

Lashing out at Sudanese 'fashion police'

What would you do if you were out with friends at a coffee shop, the police arrived and arrested you all for being "indecently dressed" — you're wearing trousers — and decided your punishment was a public flogging: 40 lashes each?

Sudanese journalist Lubna Hussein went head-to-head with her country's outrageous "dress code" law in style. She insisted on a trial (10 of the women arrested with her accepted a fine and flogging), showed up in the Khartoum court wearing the very same trousers that got her arrested in the first place and — the cherry on the cake — she sent out 500 invitations to journalists and activists to come and watch.

Dozens of women, many in trousers, and several men turned out to support Hussein and were promptly tear-gassed and beaten by police. Any doubt on how far Hussein has upended the system in Sudan was laid to rest when the Sudanese regime barred her from travelling to Lebanon earlier this week to give a television interview on her trial.

Hussein's trial resumes Sept. 7.

For years the Sudanese regime had played a cheap game of flaunting its "Islamic principles" over the bodies of women. It has flogged thousands of both Muslim women and non-Muslim southern Sudanese women for supposedly violating Islamic principles.

"And most importantly she is a Muslim woman who knows that a flogging for wearing trousers is sheer and utter nonsense ..."

Many silently endured the misogyny and injustice; they were poor, socially vulnerable or ashamed. But Hussein has brilliantly used her position and clout to fight back. She is a journalist who knows all about shaping the narrative. She was also a press officer for the United Nations, a position that could have earned her immunity from charges and a flogging, but she chose to resign and fight instead.

And most importantly she is a Muslim woman who knows that a flogging for wearing trousers is sheer and utter nonsense — she has said she was ready to "receive (even) 40,000 lashes" if that's what it takes to abolish the indecency law.

A Sudanese friend who recently visited Khartoum told me she'd seen friends and relatives dressed in T-shirts and trousers at parties she went to without consequence, an indication the regime had turned down some of its "Islamic" zeal.

Hussein's case could be one of police gone wild, thinking they could get away with what is business as usual — teach a group of women "morals." But they didn't reckon they had to deal with a media-savvy woman, a pride to Sudan's feminist movement and women everywhere.

Mona Eltahawy is an award-winning Egyptian-born commentator and public speaker on Arab and Muslim issues. She reported on the Middle East for 10 years before moving to the U.S.

Worth mentioning

French woman barred from wearing 'burquini'

A Muslim woman garbed in a head-to-toe swimsuit — dubbed a "burquini" — may have opened a new chapter in France's tussle between religious practices and its stern secular code.

Officials insisted yesterday they banned the woman's use of the Islam-friendly suit at a local pool because of France's pool hygiene standards — not out of hostility to overtly Muslim garb.

Under the policy, swimmers are not allowed in pools with baggy clothing, including surfer-style shorts. Only figure-hugging suits are permitted.

Nonetheless, the woman, a 35-year-old convert to Islam identified only as Carole, complained of religious discrimination after trying to go swimming in a burquini, a full-body swimsuit, in the town of Emerainville, southeast of Paris.

She was quoted as telling the daily Le Parisien newspaper that she had bought the burquini after deciding "it would allow me the pleasure of bathing without showing too much of myself, as Islam recommends."

"For me this is nothing but segregation," she said.

The issue of religious attire is a hot topic in France, where head-to-toe burqas or other full-body coverings worn by some Muslim fundamentalists are in official disfavour.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Five murdered at Somali mosque
Masked gunmen killed five Pakistani preachers yesterday outside a mosque in Somalia following morning prayers, witnesses said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Mystery surrounds missing cargo ship

First the ship reported it had been attacked in waters off Sweden. Then it sailed with no apparent problems through one of the world's busiest shipping lanes. And then it disappeared.

The Arctic Sea, a Maltese-flagged cargo ship, was supposed to make port in Algeria on Aug. 4. More than a week later, there's no sign of the ship or its Russian crew. Piracy has exploded off the coast of lawless Somalia — but could this be an almost unheard of case of sea banditry in European waters?

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev ordered the country's defence minister yesterday to take "all necessary measures" to find the missing cargo ship and, if necessary, to free its crew, the Kremlin said.

'No idea'

- The boat's cargo was shipped by Finnish wood supplier Rets Timber, and is worth $1.84 million US, the company said. "We have no idea where the ship is," company managing director Kari Naumanen said.

The mystery began on July 24, when the 15 crew members of the Arctic Sea said they were tied up and beaten by a group of up to 10 men who boarded the ship off the Swedish island of Oland. The masked men identified themselves as police officers — but Swedish police said they hadn't been searching ships in that area.

Swedish police investigator Ingemar Isaksson said the crew then claimed that the men left the ship 12 hours later in a high-speed inflatable boat.

On July 28, the Arctic Sea made contact with British maritime authorities as it passed through the busy English Channel.

Where the ship was next spotted is uncertain. Russian media reports say the last contact was on July 30 when the ship was in the Bay of Biscay, and that it was later spotted by a Portuguese patrol plane.

But a Portuguese Navy spokesman said "we can guarantee that the ship is not in Portuguese waters nor did it ever pass through Portuguese waters."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

China **Trapped by vigilantes**

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A tourist cries for help behind the damaged windows of a tour bus in China's Shaanxi province yesterday. Fifty-one tourists were trapped for more than eight hours after the bus ran over a scooter, killing two local residents. Relatives of the victims attacked the bus and prevented the passengers from leaving before authorities negotiated their release.

U.S. launches offensive

AFGHANISTAN Helicopter-borne U.S. Marines backed by Harrier jets stormed a Taliban-held town in southern Afghanistan yesterday, the launch of a new operation to uproot Taliban fighters from a longtime base and provide security for next week's presidential election.

The troops exchanged heavy fire with insurgents, killing at least seven in an offensive they hoped would also cut Taliban supply lines and isolate their fighters.

Fighting lasted more than eight hours, as Harrier jets streaked overhead and dropped flares.

U.S., NATO and Afghan troops are working to protect voting sites around the country so Afghans can take part in the country's second-ever direct presidential election on Aug. 20. Taliban militants have vowed to disrupt the elections, and attacks are on the rise.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

NUCLEAR Iran, whose nuclear facilities are under threat of possible Israeli military strikes, proposed yesterday that a 150-nation conference convening in the fall ban such attacks. Iran says the proposal is not linked to veiled threats by Israel of an attack as a last resort if the international community fails to persuade Tehran to freeze nuclear activities.

TAIWAN Rescuers have found nearly 1,000 people alive in the area devastated by Typhoon Morakot, officials said yesterday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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McGuinty hints Manitoba or P.E.I. likely to merge sales taxes

Premier Dalton McGuinty says based on conversations he had with P.E.I. Premier Robert Ghiz and Manitoba's Gary Doer at a premier's meeting last week, he wouldn't be surprised if either province moved ahead with the harmonized sales tax. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business

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Business in brief

MARKET The Toronto stock market racked up a slight gain after the U.S. Federal Reserve delivered a relatively upbeat take on the economy. The S&P/TSX composite index rose 30.4 points to 10,659.87 with most of the strength coming from the energy and financial sectors. The market had lost about 250 points over the last two days.

U.S. RATE The U.S. Federal Reserve has left its key interest rate unchanged at zero to 0.25 per cent, and expects economic conditions mean the rates will have to stay low for an extended period. The Fed said U.S. economic activity is "levelling out" and signalled it would end one program aimed at propping up the economy.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Toy sellers aim low

Stores lure parents with lower-priced products

Some of the first toys of the Christmas season hit store shelves this week, including BattleStrikers, a Canadian innovation aimed at helping pull troubled Mega Brands Inc. back from the brink.

One thing many of them will have in common this year is a lower price point as retailers and manufacturers try to address consumers' concerns about spending, experts said.

Game plan

- Wal-Mart Canada is betting BattleStrikers will be big this season and sewed up the initial orders, spokesperson Andrew Pelletier said.
- It is also predicting that board games — Lego, Barbie, Transformers and Bakugan by Toronto-based Spin Master — will be hot this year.

"Once you get up to $200 you're competing with gaming systems, and more and more families are finding a gaming system is essential," explained Chris Byrne, a toy industry analyst in New York.

With the toy market expected to be flat, or down one to two per cent, due to parental nervousness, companies like Montreal's Mega Brands are hoping to hit the sweet spot with toys in the $30 to $50 range.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Microsoft loses patent case to micro T.O. firm

VERDICT Michel Vulpe and i4i Inc., the tiny Toronto technology firm he founded, won a key ruling this week in a patent infringement case that could force Microsoft Corp. to stop selling current versions of its popular Word software in the United States.

A Texas judge found Microsoft "wilfully" infringed on i4i's patent by including certain features in the 2003 and 2007 versions of its popular word processing software.

The ruling upheld an earlier decision against Microsoft that was issued in May and added another $90 million US in damages to the court's initial award of $200 million.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Cleaning up China bounces back

GREG BAKER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A cleaner walks past a window yesterday at a luxury shopping mall in Beijing. China's economic growth accelerated to 7.9 per cent in the latest quarter, up from 6.1 per cent the previous quarter, though officials warn that a recovery is not firmly established and have called for continued vigilance.

Manulife to buy AIC fund business

INSURANCE Canada's largest life insurance company announced yesterday it is purchasing the retail investment business of AIC Ltd., one of a dwindling number of independent domestic players in a business that's increasingly dominated by the country's largest financial institutions.

After the transaction, Manulife Financial Corp. will have about $13.7 billion of assets under management for Canadians in retail mutual funds, the company said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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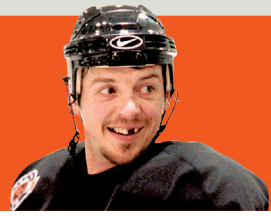
Kane to appear before grand jury
The clash with a cabbie that landed Chicago Blackhawks forward Patrick Kane behind bars in his hometown of Buffalo is going before a grand jury tomorrow. The panel can then decide to bring charges or drop the case. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports



Fleury eyeing comeback

Theoren Fleury, left, is reportedly ready to resume his NHL career. TSN has reported on its website that Fleury will attempt a comeback at the age of 41. The native of Oxbow, Sask., hasn't played in the NHL since 2003, when he suited up for the Chicago Blackhawks. Fleury has 455 goals and 633 assists in 1,084 career NHL games. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: CHRIS.CLEMENTS@METRONEWS.CA

Aiming for the podium

Canadians hoping for a breakthrough at canoe-kayak championships

MATTHEW WUEST
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With Lake Banook as its backdrop, Canada's sprint canoe-kayak team is hoping for a historic weekend.

Canada, represented by its largest team yet at the world championships starting today in Dartmouth, N.S., is gunning for a top-three finish in the overall team point standings and is quietly hoping to knock off either Hungary or Germany, traditionally the powerhouse nations at this event.

"One of our goals is some day to be the top (canoe-kayak) nation in the world," said national team head coach Graham Barton. "This is one of our opportunities to take that step."

"One of our goals is some day to be the top (canoe-kayak) nation in the world. This is one of our opportunities to take that step."
Graham Barton, national team head coach

Canada's record 42 athletes are among the 1,000 participants from more than 70 countries on Lake Banook this weekend. It will mark the first time Canada has an athlete entered in every event. Traditionally, financial concerns and a focus on the Olympics mean smaller teams are sent to worlds.

While Hungary and Germany are usually the top two nations, Canada battles it out with countries such as Poland, Russia and Spain for the final spot on the podium.

At the worlds, Canada often finds itself in the fifth- and sixth-place range, while it placed third at the Athens Olympics in 2004 and fourth at the Beijing Games last summer.

"Our team is strong throughout," said Halifax canoeist Richard Dalton. "We're going to have chances to be in the top five or on the podium in a lot of different events.

"Our team is extremely strong and we're well able to go out and compete with those big countries."

The worlds were also held on Lake Banook in 1997 and they will bring plenty of excitement to Dartmouth before their conclusion Sunday. Virtually every member of the Canadian team has family and friends in town to cheer them on — and that's especially true for the 11 athletes from Nova Scotia.

"Being at home has given us an extra level of comfort and confidence," the 30-year-old Dalton said. "Everyone's in peak shape and we're ready to go for it."

New York Jays drop another

KATHY WILLENS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Toronto's Aaron Hill tosses his bat yesterday after striking out swinging with two men on base during the Blue Jays' 4-3, 11-inning loss to the New York Yankees.

Sports in brief

BASEBALL With the New York Mets fading from contention, the team has cut ticket prices up to 50 per cent for some seats for 13 of its 26 remaining home games. Four other games have 40 per cent reductions, and three games have 33-34 per cent cuts. METRO NEWS SERVICES

TFC makes a pair of moves

Toronto FC made a pair of moves yesterday, adding Haitian defender Lesly Fellinga and, according to a release from the United Soccer Leagues' Puerto Rico Islanders, released defender Marco Velez, who then joined the island team. Fellinga, 23, has played most of his professional career in Holland. METRO NEWS SERVICES

NHL wants Leafs kept out of Coyotes case

The NHL has agreed to allow depositions from commissioner Gary Bettman, deputy commissioner Bill Daly and two of the league's owners in the contentious bankruptcy proceedings of the Phoenix Coyotes.

However, the league wants Judge Redfield T. Baum to reject the proposed deposition of Toronto Maple Leafs president Richard Peddie.

Lawyers for Canadian billionaire Jim Balsillie want to question Peddie over what role the Maple Leafs might play in the proposed relocation of the Coyotes to Hamilton. The league contends the relocation issue is moot because the NHL board of governors has overwhelmingly rejected Balsillie as an owner.

The league also objected to requests for information regarding the potential relocation as well as the transfer of NHL teams in the past.

The NHL, in a document filed yesterday under Baum's direction, wants depositions from Balsillie, his top aide, Richard Rodier, Coyotes owner Jerry Moyes and his lawyer, Earl Scudder, and Coyotes president and CEO Doug Moss.

At a hearing Tuesday, Baum told the parties to file their requests for information and depositions yesterday, but warned he planned only to allow "limited discovery" based on the compressed time schedule that has the sale of the team set for Sept. 10.

In addition to Bettman and Daly, the league agreed to provide Boston Bruins owner Jeremy Jacobs and Minnesota Wild owner Craig Leipold for questioning. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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IOC to select new Olympic sports today

GAMES The prospect of Tiger Woods competing for an Olympic gold medal could come closer to reality today.

Golf, along with rugby sevens, look to be the favourites among the sports being considered for inclusion in the 2016 Summer Games by the International Olympic Committee.

The IOC executive board will select two sports from a proposed list of seven, which also includes baseball, softball, squash, karate and roller sports. The 15-member board will submit two sports for ratification in a vote of the full 106-member IOC assembly in Copenhagen in October.

"It will be a long and difficult discussion." Gerhard Heiberg, IOC board member

"It will be a long and difficult discussion," IOC board member Gerhard Heiberg told The Associated Press. "I think there will be different opinions. We hope to be able to make a unanimous decision, but it will be hard to find a common denominator."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports in brief

TENNIS Former world No. 1 Kim Clijsters was one of three players awarded wild cards yesterday into the main draw of the Rogers Cup women's tennis tournament. Canadians Stephanie Dubois and Valerie Tetrault were also awarded wild cards for the main draw, which begins Monday at the York University tennis centre.

ROGERS CUP Rafael Nadal won his first match since May when his opponent David Ferrer retired with an apparent knee injury in the first set last night at the $3-million US Rogers Cup in Montreal. Nadal led 4-3 in the set when Ferrer informed the chair umpire he could not continue.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

A very literal take on a store name

Crate and Barrel was founded in 1962 by newlyweds Carole and Gordon Segal. They would import high-quality items from Europe and, with no budget for fixtures, display them on the crates and barrels that they were shipped in. Thus, the name. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Metro Homes

Crate in Calgary

This fall, Crate and Barrel will open its second Canadian location, in Calgary's Southcentral mall. The Chicago-based retailer's first international store opened in Toronto in 2008. "We are thrilled to open Crate and Barrel in Calgary — a dynamic and growing market," says Barbara Tuft, CEO and president. See Crateandbarrel.ca. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

The COLOUR issue

East-end style

Pg 18

Streetcar Developments' Corktown District in the east-end offers suites in both "warm" and "cool" colour motifs.

Homes in Style Pg 19

Homes in Style launches with colourful kitchen gadgets

Your Space Pg 23

Collector's colourful collages on display in Your Space

Styles Pg 22 and 24

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Monarch

Hey developers and designers!
Is there a model suite in Toronto or the surrounding areas that hasn't yet been featured in Metro's Suite Talk? Send in pictures and contact information to douglas.dunlop@metronews.ca. Not all submissions can be considered.

Style springs up in historic Corktown

Suite Talk

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

History and modernity coalesce in gentle harmony at Corktown District, a new east-end oasis created by Streetcar Developments in the heart of Toronto's historic Corktown.

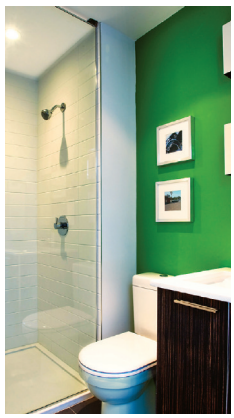
Located in the King Street East neighbourhood, Corktown District lofts and townhomes offer low- and mid-rise living for dwellers who prefer traditional good looks with a modern feel.

Designer Hannah Waisberg says one of her goals was to highlight the contrast between historic and modern at Corktown District.

"My inspiration was really the city around us. I wanted to show a young, hip, modern feel with a contrast to Corktown, which is a very historic district," Waisberg said.

The two model loft suites Waisberg designed show that opposing forces can work extremely well in setting the right tone.

The "Cool" suite features posh concrete floors, high-gloss cabinetry and a stainless steel backsplash offset with gentle wood furniture, while the "Warm" suite sports engineered hardwood flooring, dark ebony cabinets, an exposed brick wall and strong white accents. Both suites soar with 10-ft high ceilings showing off exposed ducts and open-concept designs befitting the loft lifestyle. For accents and other design choices, it's all about showcasing how much freedom exists within suite-living.



Seen here are some shots from both the "Warm" and "Cool" model suites at Corktown District.

"I'm always trying to convey an open concept, that even a limited amount of space can still feel open and big," Waisberg said.

Sustainability is a big part of the development, including a green roof that houses a bird habitat and storm water collectors while low-flow fixtures and energy efficient lighting within units make eco-efficiency a breeze. A car-share program among residents definitely plays into the positive camaraderie of the development as well while making it possible for residents to enjoy the occasional benefits of a car without having to buy one themselves. In many ways, Corktown District aims for a harmony seldom found in downtown city living.

"I hope people get the feeling that it's a timeless design that's urban, sustainable and hip," Waisberg said.

For more information, visit corktowndistrict.com

Roommate sues for sale proceeds, claims marriage

TheHunt
Amit Paul
Metronews.ca/thehunt

These days it seems that everyone is, or has at least considered, renting out a property they own. Whether you're the owner of a condominium unit, renting out for a little extra cash while the place appreciates in value, or the landlord of a multiplex building, you'd be wise to ensure that you know the facts of law, as they pertain to your situation.

The general consensus in Toronto, and rightfully so, is that the rules and regulations of residential tenancy are heavily weighed in favor of the tenant. The deeper truth is that tenant doesn't even have to be an official, documented tenant.

A few years back a friend of mine took possession of a brand new condo downtown and, to his credit, "gave" it to his son. In other words, his son, a student at the University of Toronto, had a most convenient and very impressive residence to call his own, while he studied away at one of Canada's most intense and reputed universities. Of course, no rent was being charged by Owner Dad, who was planning on holding the unit until his son graduated, and then flipping it for a nice return.

The son sought out and secured a roommate. No rent was officially charged to said roommate — whether that was a specific arrangement or if the rent was paid in cash is irrelevant. Here's the kicker. When the son graduated and Owner Dad decided to sell the unit the son's roommate sued for half of the proceeds under the guise of "common-law marriage," claiming that half of the assets of the "marital home" were rightfully theirs.

There existed no paper trail of rent that would indicate the relationship to be more business than personal. No written agreement. No proof of any kind.

Truth is, under the law, the parties of a matrimonial home — defined loosely as the primary place of residence for the married parties — share equal interest in that property, regardless of whose name appears on title! So while the son could argue that the roommate was paying rent and was only a friend, the best defence he had was his word against the roommate's.

So, if you ever find yourself in the shoes of Owner Dad or his son, ensure that you have a written agreement that sets out, in detail, the specifics of your arrangement.

Remember, under the eyes of the law, it doesn't matter what actually happened, it only matters what you can prove.

For more information, or other questions, feel free to email Amit at amitp@rogers.com.

Happy Hunting!

Amit is a Realtor/Developer with Re/Max. amitp@rogers.com

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Find your own pot of black gold at the end of this coffee press rainbow. **Brazil Three-Cup Coffee Press,** Bodum, $24.99, Home Outfitters, homeoutfitters.com.

Homes in **Style**

Creative cooking

EMMA YARDLEY
for Metro Canada

A fear of colour can sometimes make kitchens seem sterile and white washed rather than centres of culinary creativity. But before you go out and buy a hot pink gas range, think about other ways injecting colour into your kitchen.

"A pop of colour is always fun but I wouldn't have all my appliances in colour," says Karen Kirk, the Senior Editor of Homes and Gardens at Canadian Living Magazine. "You don't want them to end up in the dump after six months because they're no longer your favorite colour!"

Instead, she suggests experimenting with colour by painting the walls a fun shade or adding a bold set of china and linens to your collection. Another idea is to throw a few fun, candy-coloured cooking gadgets and gizmos into the mix. Little hits of colour compliment existing neutral toned appliances and won't make your kitchen look like a packet of Skittles.

Taking out the garbage is never fun, but these bright bins might help put a smile on your face when it's your turn. **Five litre Stainless Steel Step Cans,** Wal-Mart, walmart.ca.

Colour code your baking recipes with this set of **Mod Measuring Spoons.** $24, Anthropologie, anthropologie.com.

Cool, blue and oh-so retro, snap this magnetic **60-minute timer** to the stove and time travel back the 1950s. $14, Anthropologie, anthropologie.com.

Following this year's smoking hot colour trend, meals prepared in **Rachel Ray's 10-piece non-stick bright orange aluminum cookware** set are sure to sizzle. $169.97, Wal-Mart, available in stores nationwide, walmart.ca.

Party punch on tap? Yes, please! **Jericho Glass Beverage Dispenser,** $130, Urban Barn, Urbanbarn.com.

Entice your little kitchen helpers to roll up their sleeves and get down to monkey business. **Boston Warehouse Monkey Potato Peeler,** $10.95, teatroverde.com.

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Outside Decor

Canadian Gardening

Fresh

Produced by Lara McGraw, photography by Edward Pond

Green-thumb approved — Canadian Gardening's guide to this summer's most colourful accents

Green bucket, starting at $21.99, Home Hardware

Ergonomic Hand Tools, $41.50 (set of three), Lee Valley Tools

Gardening gloves, $16.99, Indigo

Frog sprinkler, $34, Accent Imports
Colorstorm rubber hose, $69.99, Dramm

Contoured Kneeling Pad, $23.50, Lee Valley Tools

Velvet-gingko, Luminou-gingko and New Oplettuce fabrics, Sunbrella

Carrie Basket, $39, Design House Stockholm

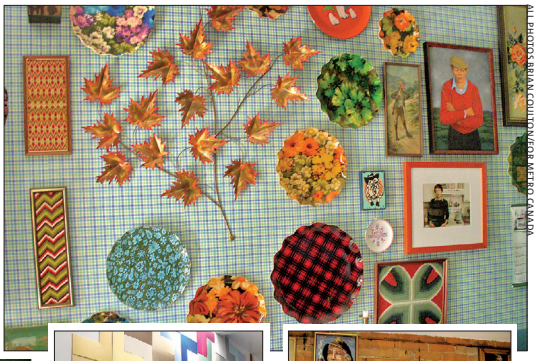
Think your home has character?
Think your house/apartment/condo/abode is chalk full of character? Email douglas.dunlop@metronews.ca why and you could be featured on Metro's Your Space feature. Not all submissions will be considered.

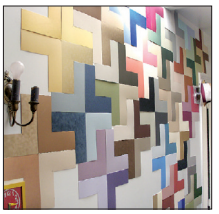
Cabbagetown's collection en masse

Your Space

Resident: Matthew Simpson, 43, Bookkeeper and Clothing Designer
Space: 3-bedroom apartment above storefront
Location: Cabbagetown
Price: $1,600 (utilities included)

BRIAN COULTON
for Metro Canada





ALL PHOTOS BRIAN COULTON FOR METRO CANADA

Seen here are some shots from Michael Simpson's abode.

Matthew Simpson collects things. Lots of things. But why he's so drawn to assorted amass, he can only speculate, is a matter of genetics.

"My older brother collects and my younger brother collects," he said. "My great grandfather was a woodworker and he was a big collector of wood. He would have jars and jars and jars and all kinds of bits of wood all over the house."

As his grandfather's collection related to his trade, so to do Simpson's collections. In the artist's main hallway, which measures 26 feet in length, hangs an assortment of coloured mat board samples from an art store. Opposite that, Simpson displays a variety of portraits of himself from his past, atop a coat rack.

Entering Simpson's kitchen, across from a cupboard clad with fruit stickers, an array of plates hangs on the wall. "All of these plates are called Fab Art. It's made in Barrie, Ont.," he said. "I like to buy stuff that was made in Canada because there's a huge loss of production in this country."

A clock resembling the moon Simpson made in art school was the inspiration behind one wall in his "little library," which is covered in tens of different shapes and colours of clocks. But with the wall nearly full, he's has to move on to a new collection on the exposed brick wall perpendicular. "I am just going to have portraits of bearded people … well, mostly men," he said.

Mostly figurines of the Buzz Lightyear character from the film Toy Story — 84, Simpson estimates — sit atop a clothes rack in Simpson's studio (but you will find a couple Woody dolls throughout his space). "I really liked all the movies and the Woody doll is really hard to find," said Simpson, "These ones are easy to find and they're fun."

In terms of a cohesive design aesthetic, Simpson said he doesn't have one. But he thinks the way he furnishes his home relates to a diagnosis for writer's block he was given during art school. Because he was blanking out, a lecturer told him to forfeit white paper for coloured to foster the flow of words.

"I bought coloured paper and I was writing like a maniac," he said, "I guess what I don't like it a plain white surface. I don't like it on me, and I don't like it in anything."

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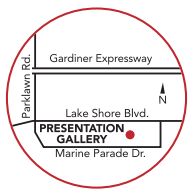

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Monarch

Decor

Read more in the August issue of STYLE AT HOME magazine.
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À la Mode

It's creamy. It's cooling. It's summer's favourite treat — whether mounded on a cone or whizzed into a milkshake. Here are our picks of ice cream serving-ware and gadgets to make every scoop exceptional.
By Julia Armstrong

1

2

3

4

5

6

1: PARLOUR STYLE Can't decide between a cup and a cone? These waffle-pattern dishes provide a colourful compromise. Ice cream dishes, $5, Jackryn France, 905-726-3451; Jackryn.com.

2: GRAND FINALE Stack a cylinder of ice cream atop a brownie, on a plate or in a waffle cone for a pro presentation or just for fun. The twist-and-lift plunger has a push-button release. Cuisipro Ice Cream Scoop & Stack, $20, Brownie and Co. 866-306-3672.

3: MORE TO THE POINT Thanks to its tapered tip, this scoop digs into even the hardest ice cream and reaches into the corners of a container to get every last lick. In three colours: candy pink, luscious lime and juicy orange. PREPARA ICE CREAM SCOOP $15, SWISSMAR, 877-947-7627; SWISSMAR.COM.

4: LA CRÈME GLACÉE Having a dinner party? Serve sherbet or ice cream in a dish that puts dessert on a pedestal. Add a mint sprig to up the elegance factor. Moda Tavola Dessert Dish, $8 for four, Kitchen Stuff Plus, 416-944-2847; Kitchenstuffplus.com.

5 MAKE YOUR OWN Summer entertaining couldn't be easier. Simply pour ingredients into the machine's prechilled bowl, turn the dial, and in 25 minutes you'll have two quarts of party-perfect ice cream, frozen yogurt or sorbet. Cuisinart 2 Qt. Frozen Yogurt-Sorbet & Ice Cream Station, $120, WIlliams-Sonoma.com.

6 SUNDAE STATION There'll be smiles all around when you set out yummy sauces accompanied by a trio of crowd-pleasing toppers in this easy-carry condiment dish. Porcelin Three-Part Server, $12, Crate and Barrel 888-657-4108; Crateandbarrel.ca

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JESSICA LIN

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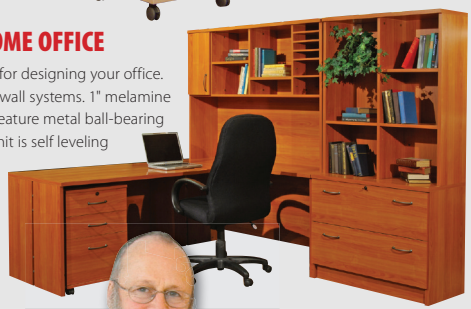

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Desk
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Coffee 30655 ~~$179~~ $152
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L Desk Left
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Coffee 30663 ~~$209~~ $178
150Wx75Dx75Hcm 59Wx29½Dx29½H"

L Desk Right
Maple/Cherry 30662 ~~$189~~ $161
Coffee 30662 ~~$209~~ $178
150Wx75Dx75Hcm 59Wx29½Dx29½H"

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Coffee 30665 ~~$219~~ $186
95Wx55Dx79Hcm 37½Wx21½Dx31H"

Computer Return
Maple/Cherry 30658 ~~$129~~ $110
Coffee 30658 ~~$144~~ $123
120Wx45Dx75Hcm 47¼Wx18Dx29½H"

File Cabinet
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Coffee 30677 ~~$309~~ $263
95Wx45Dx75Hcm 37½Wx18Dx29½H"

Cabinet 2 Doors
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Coffee 30678 ~~$219~~ $186
95Wx45Dx75Hcm 37½Wx18Dx29½H"

Hutch with Door
Maple/Cherry 30635 ~~$229~~ $195
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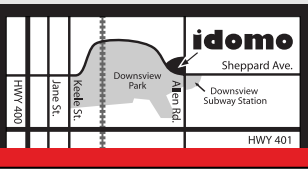
93Wx1.5Dx166Hcm 36½Wx½Dx65½H"



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Naturalizing your urban area

HomeScape

When it rains, it pours. That's how it's been this summer in my part of the country.

There's so much of it, it comes sheeting off my roof, gurgling down the eavestroughs, and splish-splashing into my water barrel, which fills quickly and then overflows out onto the walk. And water, if left unsupervised, can cause a lot of damage.

Erosion of slopes, ruts, driveway pavers loosened and undermined. Gravel washed away. And water seeping into the basement doesn't help things either.

That doesn't even take into consideration the larger environmental damage caused by intensive bursts of dirty urban runoff. It courses down paved streets and concrete sidewalks, picking up oil, litter and dog waste along the way, coalescing quickly into a torrent, and ultimately overwhelming sewers and urban water treatment capacities.

And when the urban sewage and storm water system is inundated with more water than it can handle, storm water can mix with sewage underneath the older parts of the city, and the mess can and often does end up in lakes, river and oceans.

So, it doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that it really does make sense to reduce the amount of water that flows into city sewers.

But how might the average urban dweller do this? For one, by naturalizing the urban space. That way, water that falls can actually be absorbed by the earth in your little space, rather than rushing down various impermeable urban surfaces, such as concrete and pavement.

When you naturalize, you are trying to recreate the natural system that softens the effects of intense rainfall. This means you want to mimic a forest where the rain filters through the canopy created by tall trees, falling much more gently and gradually onto the bushes and younger trees below. Then, it is absorbed slowly into the soil through the network of low-growing vegetation.

Of course, you live in an urban environment, not a forest, but here are some ways to mimic it.

• MINIMIZE IMPERMEABLE SURFACING: Use eco-friendly pavers or wooden or recycled material decking that allows water to drain through instead of running off. Or, rather than paving over the whole driveway, consider the old-fashioned two-track method with vegetation in the middle. Or make sidewalks narrower if you are redoing them.

• PLANTING: When you plant, use a tri-level canopy approach, if possible, to soften rainfall and allow gradual absorption of water.

• SOIL: If you've got soil with a high clay content, augment it with sand and organic material. Well-balanced soils absorb water much more readily than clay-rich soils, which drain water very slowly.

• EAVES: Disconnect your eavestrough to reduce water going into city sewers as runoff.

• RAIN BARRELS: To handle excessive water flow from an eavestrough, consider a rain barrel or cistern for watering at dryer times

• RUNOFF: For runoff that must drain onto your property, consider a rain garden, which is a garden specially designed to accept, infiltrate and clean water storm water, or a vegetated swale or ditch meant to help absorb and filter runoff. Infiltration trenches or soak-away pits lined with a foot or so of gravel can also help.

• PLANTS: Use native plants wherever possible, since exotic plants usually require more care, more water and possibly, more chemical first aid.

• CHEMICALS: Minimize chemicals, such as salt, de-icers, oil, fertilizer and pesticides on the land you manage because it will pollute runoff. Fix auto leaks and wash your car at a car wash rather than on the street.

• GREEN ROOF: Consider the idea of a green roof to minimize the flow of water off your roof or the roof of a shed.

• LAST BUT NOT LEAST, USE LESS WATER EVERY DAY

It's all in the lawncare

• Grass is not considered to be "naturalized" because it usually requires a lot of water, but if you must have a lawn, opt for natural lawncare. That means aerate, leave mulched grass clippings on the lawn, cut grass higher, at 7.5 centimetres (three inches) or so, and water only once a week, about 2.5 cm (one inch) of water, if needed. If it has rained for an hour or more in the last week, there is no need to water.

Sylvia Putz is a journalist with an interest in decor and design. She's written for the TV show Arresting Design; sputz@arrestingdesign.com.

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Leaky issues in condo loft

LegalMatters

Jeffrey D. Cowan
jeff@cowanlaw.ca

Q I have owned a loft condo for a couple of years and have had problems with the hardwood floors. Last summer, the floor started buckling and had to be replaced. The flooring people said it probably was due to humidity as the problem was not localized but throughout the open space. Over the last few weeks, the problem resurfaced and I finally had a plumber in to look at the issue. He found that the dishwasher was leaking, which had lead to creeping moisture. Now my floors need to be entirely replaced and I would like your advice with respect to my options.

A You have a big problem on your hands with very little recourse.

The first issue you would think is that the dishwasher had been improperly installed and/or damaged in the process. The former owner may or may not have known about this problem. If he never really lived in the condo and never ran the dishwasher, he may have been entirely unaware of the problem.

The point you must remember is that if the former owner was aware of the problem (known legally as a latent defect) and did not divulge it to you before you purchased the property then it goes to the representations and warranties in the Agreement of Purchase and Sale and you may have some recourse. However, proving that the former owner had knowledge of this latent defect is the key to this problem. He may have known but the issue at law is whether you can prove it. When push comes to shove, it may be his word against yours.

The alternate route is to claim this on your insurance and be done with it. Insurance companies encounter this type of problem on almost a daily basis. This is why I always stress that clients should have contents insurance for their condo even though the building is covered by fire and replacement cost insurance. A leaky tub to a unit below, for example, can be a very costly experience for a condo owner.

Jeffrey Cowan is the principal with Cowan Taylor and McGee, Barristers & Solicitors. The information in this article should not be relied upon as legal advice.

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STYLE CONTENT BY ELLE CANADA, SEE MORE AT: **ellecanada.com**

Style

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

THE SUIT
Modern power dressing

SLIM

Polyester and rayon blazer and skirt, Fullcircle ($195 and $125, 1-866-240-2808)

PETITE

Polyester and viscose blazer and skirt, RW&CO. ($88 and $48, rw-co.com)

BOYISH

Stretch-wool blazer and pants ($240 and $124, at Banana Republic)

Editors' Pick

($160, at Swarovski Gallery locations)

FEMME FATALE LOOK

A THOUSAND CUTS Literal? Sure. But Swarovski's Heroe Pendant Sword makes your intentions clear.

DRY CLEANING

"Dry shampoo is a great way to prolong a blow-dry," says Beni Sicilia, artistic director at The Blowdry Lounge in Toronto, "but it won't work miracles. You can't go to hot yoga and then use dry shampoo and expect it to work." Sicilia suggests applying it a day after your blowout, or when the hair starts to stick together at the roots.

Ojon Rub-Out Dry Cleansing Powder ($27).

To read these stories and more, visit:
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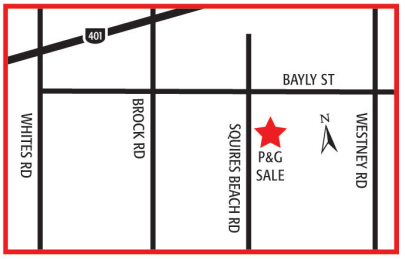

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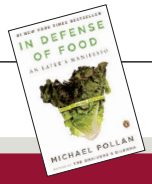


Defense has the best offence

In Defense of Food: An Eater's Manifesto by Michael Pollan remains at the top of the bestseller's list for cookbooks on Amazon.ca. Gordon Ramsay's Healthy Appetite was second and Julie and Julia: My Year of Cooking Dangerously was third. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Food

Shop for plums with good colour; a full, smooth, relatively heavy feel; and a distinctively "plummy," sweet fragrance.
CANADIANLIVING.COM

No leakage, please

Avoid fruit with shrivelled skin, bruises, brown spots or any sign of leakage.

EDITOR: NINA.DRAGICEVIC@METRONEWS.CA

Canadian Living magazine is on sale now!

Canadian Living recipe of the month

Bottoms up for plum cake

But before dessert, try a whole new twist on burgers

Pickerel Burger with Warm Onions

MAKES 4 SERVINGS
PREP TIME: 22 MINUTES
COOK TIME: 21 MINUTES

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 lb (500 g) boneless skinless pickerel fillets
- 1/4 cup (50 ml) all-purpose flour
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1 green onion, chopped
- 2 tsp (10 ml) each chopped capers and lemon juice
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) each salt and pepper
- 3 tbsp (45 ml) cornmeal
- 2 tbsp (25 ml) vegetable oil
- 4 hamburger buns

Warm onions:

- 1 tbsp (15 ml) each vegetable oil and mustard seeds
- 1 sweet onion, sliced
- 1/4 cup (50 ml) cider vinegar
- 1 tsp (5 ml) packed brown sugar

METHOD:

Bake pickerel on foil-lined baking sheet in 350°F (180°C) oven until fish flakes easily when tested, about 15 minutes. Pat dry and let cool.

In bowl, flake fish with fork; mix in flour, egg, onion, capers, lemon juice, salt and pepper. Shape into 4 patties; refrigerate for 10 minutes. Coat patties in cornmeal.

Warm onions: Meanwhile, in skillet, heat oil over medium heat; cook mustard seeds and onion until softened, 3 minutes. Add vinegar and sugar; cook until evaporated, 5 minutes.

In clean skillet, heat oil over medium heat; fry burgers, turning once, until golden, about 6 minutes. Serve on buns along with onions.

DAVID SCOTT PHOTO

Pickerel Burger with Warm Onions.

Spelt flour gives cake a nutty hint

Plum Upside-Down Cake

Sliced plums in a butterscotch sauce top this tender cake. Spelt flour, an ancient cereal grain, gives it a nutty hint.

MAKES 9 SERVINGS

INGREDIENTS:

- 12 oz (375 g) large firm ripe prune or purple plums (3 to 6 plums)
- ½ cup (125 ml) packed brown sugar
- 3 tbsp (45 ml) butter, melted

Cake:

- 2/3 cup (150 ml) butter, softened
- 1 cup (250 ml) packed brown sugar
- 3 eggs
- 1 tsp (5 ml) grated orange rind
- 1 tsp (5 ml) vanilla
- 1 1/4 cups (300 ml) all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) spelt flour
- 2 tsp (10 ml) baking powder
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) cinnamon
- Pinch each nutmeg and salt
- 2/3 cup (150 ml) milk

YVONNE DUIVENVOORDEN PHOTO

Plum Upside-Down Cake.

METHOD:

Halve and pit plums. Cut each into 6 wedges; set aside. In bowl, whisk sugar with butter until combined. Spread in greased 8-inch (2 L) square metal cake pan; decoratively cover with plums.

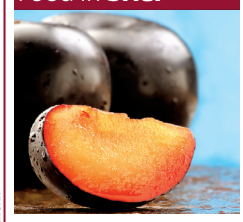
Cake: In large bowl, beat butter with sugar until fluffy. Beat in eggs, 1 at a time. Beat in orange rind and vanilla.

In separate bowl, whisk together all-purpose and spelt flours, baking powder, cinnamon, nutmeg and salt. Stir into butter mixture alternately with milk, making 3 additions of dry ingredients and 2 of milk. Spoon over plums, smoothing top.

Bake in 350°F (180°C) oven until golden and cake tester inserted in centre comes out clean, about 55 minutes. Let cool in pan on rack for 10 minutes.

Run knife around edges of cake; invert onto plate. Scrape any remaining syrupy base over plums. Serve warm or at room temperature.

Food In brief



PERFECT PLUMS

There are many varieties of plums, some sweet and some acidic. Prune plums and damson plums – both best suited for cooking – star in this delicious recipe.

- Oval purple prune plums have deep flavour. Damson plums are similar looking but much smaller than the purple. Damson plums are extremely tart and are used mostly in cooking and preserves.
- To ripen, keep plums at room temperature, out of direct sun, until skin yields slightly to gentle pressure.
- Ripe plums should be stored in single layer in refrigerator for up to 5 days. Rinse off fruit just before using.
- As a guide, 3 to 6 prune plums equal 1 lb (500 g). A 3 L basket contains about 5 lb (2.2 kg). CANADIANLIVING.COM

online

For more Tested-Till-Perfect recipes, visit canadianliving.com

Walking in a wine wonderland...
Visit wineriesofniagaraonthelake.com/contest.html to win one of six getaway packages to Niagara-on-the-Lake Wine Country, valued at over $1,000. Contest ends Sept. 27. METRO NEWS SERVICES

'The Heartland' of wine

The vineyard is a classroom at Niagara College.

"We provide a living lab for our students," says Jon Ogryzlo, dean of food and wine sciences, as we stroll across the road to the 40-acre vineyard right on campus.

The college is grooming a new generation of food and wine producers, and Ogryzlo is proud to say it is the home of the only commercial teaching winery in Canada. Students are split into teams (Team Chardonnay, for instance) that make about 18 wines, from start to finish, crushing to bottling.

Visitors can buy these wines in a small shop. The best are distinguished by the Dean's List label, a real report card with marks and tasting notes. Prices range from $10.95 to $18.95 for regular bottles, $27.95 to $36.95 for Dean's List reserves.

Ice wines top the list at $49.95 to $54.95.

This is not just a shopping trip, though. It's all very civilized.

You can dine at the student chefs' restaurant. You can buy herbs and lettuces in the greenhouse next door. You can saunter around the grounds of the 114-acre campus, its groomed lawns and floral displays alive with the chirping of birds. A short walk brings you to the vineyard, and beyond that is a Niagara Escarpment forest.

SUSAN SAMPSON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Jon Ogryzlo, dean of Food and Wine Sciences at Niagara College, shows off the Dean's List brand Chardonnay and icewine, two bottles made by students at the Niagara College Teaching Winery. He is holding Dean's List brand Chardonnay and icewine.

"We provide a living lab for our students."
Jon Ogryzlo, dean of food and wine sciences

The Niagara College Teaching Winery opened in 2002. Since then, student wines have received 70 awards, Ogryzlo says. But the winery has been a well-kept secret.

Not for much longer. In late October, the college expects to open an 8,525-square-foot Wine Visitor and Education Centre. Students will make wine downstairs. Upstairs, there will be a store, a tasting bar and an information centre, lit by big glass windows overlooking the vineyard.

It will be a boost to the college — and the Niagara region. "We're the heartland of Canada's wine industry," Ogryzlo says.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

LiquidAssets

Peter Rockwell

metronews.ca/liquidassets

Good ol' G&T

I discovered cocktails during my university days and worked my way through a series of mixed drink phases.

I started with martinis (too boozy), moved on to brown cows (too rich), dabbled in Caesars (still do once in a while), but lingered the longest with the good old gin and tonic.

It's been years since I had a proper G & T so it was a kick to rediscover the classic warm weather tipple this summer during a tasting of a variety of the clear juniper berry-based spirits.

Unlike vodka, the personality of each gin is defined by how it combines juniper with its own unique mix of botanicals. One of the most original of the group I tried was **Hendrick's Gin ($41.95 - $41.99)** from Scotland.

Not only does its bottle set it apart from the pack (it looks like it would have held medicine a few centuries ago); its combination of ingredients is enhanced by the infusion of mashed cucumber and the oil pressed from Bulgarian rose pedals.

Tasty enough to drink over ice without the tonic, the addition of the bitter, bubbly water releases some major aromatics that had me pining for a full glass and a hot, lazy afternoon.

Prices reflect the range across the country. Some products may not be available in all provinces.

Peter Rockwell is the everyman's wine writer, working in the liquor industry for more than 25 years and travelling the globe looking for something to fill his glass and put into words.

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It's funny looking ... and delicious

Beer Can Chicken started as a fad on the barbecue circuit, but it is shaping up to become a classic. You grill the bird upright by ramming a can of beer into the cavity. The booze bubbles and steams to turn the meat juicy, while the skin, coated with spices, gets crispy. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES

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HOMEGROWN ONTARIO/GEOFF GEORGE

Grilled steak with shallot herb butter.

Get thee to a grill

In summer, Canadians love to indulge in fresh, simply prepared grilled steaks. Bring the sizzling steaks to the table and this simple butter can be placed on top to melt. It will accent the flavours of the meat, making each bite rich and delectable.

Grilled Steak With Herb Butter

This recipe comes from Homegrown Ontario.

MAKES 4 SERVINGS

INGREDIENTS:

- 125 ml (1/2 cup) softened butter
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) finely minced shallots
- 1 clove garlic, smashed and minced
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) flat-leaf parsley, minced
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) fresh chopped chives
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) fresh minced tarragon
- 4 strip loin steaks (about 170 g/6 oz each)
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) coarse salt
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) fresh cracked pepper
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) olive oil

METHOD:

In a bowl, combine butter with shallots, garlic, parsley, chives and tarragon until well blended. Spoon butter onto a sheet of plastic wrap and roll into a log about 2.5 cm (1 inch) in diameter. Twist ends to enclose completely. Refrigerate until firm, at least 1 hour and up to 2 weeks.

Preheat grill or grill pan over high heat. (Preheat oven to 180 C/350 F if indoors.)

Let steaks come to room temperature for about 30 minutes before cooking. Sprinkle steaks with salt and pepper and drizzle with olive oil. Sear steaks until browned, about 3 minutes per side. Move to indirect heat or the oven. Cook until desired doneness, about 5 minutes for medium rare. Let rest for 5 minutes.

Serve on a warmed plate with a 1-cm (1/2-inch) slice of butter on each steak.

- Tip: Store extra butter in the refrigerator. Stir it into cooked hot potatoes, pasta or rice to add flavour. It also works over grilled fish, pork, veal, chicken and lamb. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ted Reader's roundup

The BBQ Kingpin himself, Ted Reader, explains different cuts of beef. For grilling tips, visit tedreader.com.

- **Tenderloin** is the tenderest cut of meat available. It comes from the short loin of beef; between the rib and the sirloin. The tenderloin may be cooked whole or cut into wonderfully tender steaks. However, be careful not to overcook this cut. It doesn't have a lot of fat, so it tends to dry out and become tough the more it cooks.
- **Striploin** is one of the most popular cuts of beef. It comes from the top loin muscle in the short loin of beef. It is best grilled to medium-rare. This steak is known by many names, the most popular being the New York strip steak and Kansas City steak.
- **Rib-Eye** is an extremely tender cut of beef, cut from between the rib and chuck section. It is best to grill this steak to medium-rare, which allows the internal fat to melt and bring out the natural juices and flavor. A bone-in rib steak is often called a cowboy steak.
- **T-Bone** is named after the shape of its bone, a large T that separates the striploin from the small tenderloin. Cut from the center of the short loin, this is a large steak, often best shared.
- **Porterhouse** is cut from the large end of the short loin and also has the same T-shaped bone as the T-bone. It has a larger tenderloin portion and is truly a meal for two—it's sometimes called the king of steaks. It is often cut into 2-inch-thick portions weighing approximately 36 oz.
- **Sirloin** is cut from the area between the short loin and round. When cut into steaks, they are quite flavorful but require marinating to make them a little tenderer. A teriyaki marinade is the most popular marinade used on sirloin steaks.
- **Flank Steak** comes from the lower hind region of beef. It is a tougher cut of steak that requires marinating to make it tender, as it does not have a lot of internal fat, be careful not to overcook it. It is a great steak for a salad or sandwich.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Wild is better?
Wild Blueberries deliver a potent antioxidant punch — in fact they have the highest antioxidant capacity per serving, compared with more than 20 other fruits, and had even more total antioxidant capacity (TAC) than a serving of cultivated blueberries. WILDBLUEBERRIES.COM

In brief

MINI-RECIPE
Adapted from a recipe at wildblueberries.com.

Wild Blueberry Lemon Jam

INGREDIENTS:
- 5-1/2 to 6 cups fresh or frozen, thawed wild blueberries
- 57 g package dry pectin
- Finely grated zest of 1 lemon
- 1/3 cup lemon juice
- 5 cups granulated sugar

DIRECTIONS:
Prepare six mason jars (250-millilitre size), with lids and screwbands, for preserves. (Heat jars briefly in boiling water. Put lids in hot water to soften sealing compound.)

Crush blueberries one layer at a time in large pan. Add pectin, lemon zest and juice. Bring to boil on medium-high heat, stirring frequently. Add sugar, stirring until dissolved. Return to rolling boil. Boil hard 1 minute, stirring constantly. Remove from heat. Skim foam off top.

Set warm prepared jars on heatproof surface. Ladle in jam, leaving 1/2-inch headspace. Wipe rims. Cover jars with lids and screwbands. Process 15 minutes in boiling water canner. Remove from heat and let sit undisturbed 24 hours. Makes about 6 cups.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Make a date with these

These easy coconut, date and banana macaroons are perfect during Ramadan, the month-long celebration during which Muslims fast during the day. The fasting traditionally is broken by eating a date at sunset.

As for this simple lentil soup, traditional versions use dry lentils and take an hour or more to make. Canned lentils cut that time in half.

Almond Date Macaroons

MAKES 12-15 COOKIES

INGREDIENTS:
- 1 banana
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) baking dates (or very moist dried dates, pits removed)
- 1 pkg (about 200 g/7 oz) sweetened coconut flakes
- 5 ml (1 tsp) almond extract
- 12 to 15 whole American or Marcona almonds

METHOD:
Heat oven to 190 C (375 F). Coat a baking sheet with cooking spray or line it with parchment paper.

In a medium bowl, use a fork to mash together banana and dates. Add coconut flakes and almond extract, then mix well. Divide dough into 12 to 15 pieces and roll each piece into a ball.

Arrange balls on prepared baking sheet, then press 1 almond into top of each cookie. Bake for 10 to 15 minutes or until golden brown on the bottom but still soft. Let cool before serving.

Lentil Soup With Lemon Zest

MAKES 4 SERVINGS

INGREDIENTS:
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) extra-virgin olive oil, plus more for drizzling
- 1 large yellow onion, thinly sliced
- 3 plum tomatoes, cored and chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 5 ml (1 tsp) cumin
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) smoked paprika
- 1 can (398 ml/14 oz) lentils, drained
- 550 ml (2 1/4 cups) chicken broth
- Zest and juice of 1/2 lemon
- Salt and ground black pepper, to taste

LARRY CROWE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

When breaking fast at sunset with the traditional date during Ramadan this Almond Date Macaroon is the perfect way to do it.

METHOD:
In a large saucepan over medium, heat oil. Add onion, tomatoes and garlic, then saute until onion is soft, about 6 minutes. Add cumin and paprika, then cook for another minute, stirring constantly. Add lentils and chicken broth, then bring to a simmer. Cook for 10 minutes.

Transfer soup to a blender, in batches if necessary, and puree until smooth. Return soup to saucepan, then stir in lemon zest and juice. Season with salt and pepper, then return to a simmer. Ladle into serving bowls and drizzle olive oil over each serving.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Local Savour

Joy Bistro
884 Queen St. East
416-465-8855
joybistro.com
Wild Mushroom Gnocchi, $16

Yet another colourful dab on Queen Street's impressionistic landscape, Joy Bistro typically aims its mains towards mid-range dining. But the Prix Fixe Chef's Menu, available every day of the week, lets you sample this restaurant's oeuvre for $25 most days, and $35 Thursday to Saturday.

And who could forget the Over Joy Lounge, attached at the hip? After dinner, swing next door for oh-so-chic sipping in this lounge that boasts "old-world appeal."

On the web

Global Peasant:
- Travel along with Diane Thompson's culinary adventures in her Global Peasant blog.
- Visit metronews.ca/globalpeasant for a recipe of Tuna Tartar.

Rehab the musical?

Amy Winehouse's life could be turned into a musical. The troubled singer's brother Alex Winehouse believes a stage production focusing on their battle with drink, drugs and her failed marriage to Blake Fielder-Civil is a serious possibility. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Entertainment

Striptease

Channing Tatum used to be a stripper. A sexy video of the then-18-year-old G.I. Joe: Rise of the Cobra star performing a striptease in a Florida nightclub has been leaked online. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Mangan makes nice

Vancouver singer-songwriter Dan Mangan displays impressive range on his sophomore album Nice, Nice, Very Nice.

Dan **Mangan**

Album: Nice, Nice, Very Nice
Label: File Under: Music
Rating: ●●●½

VANCOUVER'S DAN MANGAN has quietly been building a name for himself since releasing his debut in 2007, but expect the chatter to increase in volume with this new release. If you like The Weakerthans or early Hawskley Workman you'll love this record. It's all well crafted singer-songwriter stuff with impressive range. Mangan is able to move from the incredibly infectious sing-a-long Robots to the sensitive John K. Samson-ish The Indie Queens are Waiting with ease. If anything, he sounds a little too much like some of his influences, but with such strong material no one will care.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

Mindy **Smith**

Album: Stupid Love
Label: Vanguard
Rating: ●●●●

MINDY SMITH IS a Long Island, N.Y., singer-songwriter who a few years back looked ready to become the next "alt-country" queen with her well-received cover of Dolly Parton's Jolene. On her new CD, Mindy dodges the "roots" bullet by moving her music into — excuse the terminology — the upscale environs of "adult-alternative." To Canadians, that means a sound uncannily like our own Kathleen Edwards, which is a very good thing indeed. Ironically, it was Edwards who, not too many years ago, was unfairly being touted as the next alt-country queen of Lucinda Williams. It's nice that the Americans have finally come up with someone who can be compared with Kathleen Edwards. But great songwriting is what it is, defying categorization and deserving an audience.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

Music**Reviews**

music@metronews.ca

Black **Mold**

Album: Snow Blindness is Crystal Antz
Label: Flemish Eye
Rating: ●●●●

IT'S RARE THAT an artist is as celebrated as much for his passionate folk tunes as he is for his ambient musical soundscapes, but that's what's happened to Calgary's Chad VanGaalen. His last album leaned more towards the former than the latter, so it's not surprising that he's released an entire album of weird, quirky sounds with nary a vocal melody around. Playing under the name Black Mold, VanGaalen delivers a strong set of Nintendo-like bleeps, sweeping keyboards and spacey electro sounds. Like his previous instrumental work, this is nearly as catchy and melodic as his more straightforward tunes.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

Listen to this week's reviewed music at metronews.ca/music

Another Flowers child

Brandon Flowers has become a father for the second time. The Killers rocker and his wife Tana welcomed their second son Gunner into the world last week, and mother and baby are both doing well. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Kudrow gets serious in Bandslam

But actress says she prefers to work — and live — on the flakier side

HEIDI PATALANO
Metro World News

Ask Friends veteran Lisa Kudrow how she prepared for her role in Bandslam, and the subject of Rock Band — the omnipresent and much-loved video game — immediately comes up.

Bandslam opens in theatres tomorrow

"Rock Band? Oh honey, I got it. We played it. It's done. It's over," she says without hesitation.

"Did I just say 'Oh honey'? Where am I from?"

That's the brand of Kudrow humour that has carried the veteran actress through dozens of supporting roles. Despite what you might think, she'd much rather play second fiddle than take centre stage.

"The hardest times I've had are when I've had to be a romantic figure," she says, noting that primary characters often have the burden of achieving universal likeability while supporting characters can get away with being a bit weird.

"For me, it's such a challenge to make someone who is potentially really unlikable, likeable. I have a lot of fun with that."

For her turn in Bandslam, Kudrow plays the protective mom to a teenager making his way at a new school — a sobering contrast to some of actress' ditzier characters. Kudrow credits her spacier characters for her success and that makes sense, since her roles as Ursula in Mad About You and as Phoebe in Friends are what made her a star — but being flaky also helped her cope with success.

Lisa Kudrow in a scene from Bandslam.

"I used to be very, very serious about things and it really made me let go of a lot of things, to be honest with you. It helps because you know, you're not a threat when you're stupid," she says. "You know how people say that smart women aren't that likeable? I honestly do think it's true."

What about Oprah, we ask? "You make a good point," the star admits. "I guess it's just me. I have trouble with people."

Diamond doubles up with concert DVD, TV special

MUSIC Neil Diamond is so excited about his two latest projects, it's like he has twins on the way. They're due Friday, when his concert DVD, Hot August Night/NYC, lands in Walmart stores and a companion hourlong TV special airs on CBS. "Basically I feel like an expectant father and I'm just nervously sitting around the waiting room hoping that the baby is healthy and happy," the 68-year-old entertainer said.

The DVD, filmed during his performance at Madison Square Garden last summer, features more than two dozen songs, including classics such as Sweet Caroline and Love on the Rocks. Diamond said he wanted to make a concert film for years and "just never got to it." He finally decided to shoot a show in his native New York City. "There's something special when you play your hometown," he said. "It makes me regret that I haven't filmed previous tours, but I'm glad we got this one."

The television special includes excerpts from the DVD and footage from Diamond's recent trip home.

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Judge speaks out on Nicole Smith book

A New York judge said yesterday a jury can decide whether an author who wrote a bestselling book, Blonde Ambition, about Anna Nicole Smith's death defamed her lawyer and companion. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Monster mash-up

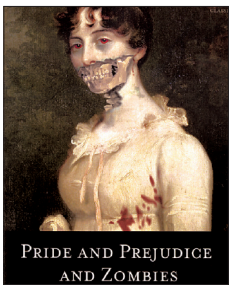
Publishers add fresh blood to classics

It is a truth universally acknowledged that a Jane Austen novel in possession of added gore will be a surefire bestseller.

That's the conclusion reached by publishers since the success of Pride and Prejudice and Zombies, an unlikely literary sensation created by adding dollops of "ultraviolent zombie mayhem" to Austen's classic love story.

Zombies — billed as 85 per cent Austen's original text and 15 per cent brand-new blood and guts — has become a bestseller since it was published earlier this year, with 750,000 copies in print. There's a movie in the works. And it has spawned a monster — or, more accurately, a slew of literary monster mash-ups.

Next month, Zombies publisher Quirk Books is releasing Sense and Sensibility and Sea Monsters, which adds giant lobsters and rampaging octopi to Austen's love story. Out this week from another publisher is Mr. Darcy, Vampyre, a supernatural sequel which portrays the aloof hero of Pride and Prejudice as an undead bloodsucker.



Pride and Prejudice and Zombies has become a bestseller and a movie is in the works.

Even Austen purists admit a grudging admiration for the "Zombies" concept.

"In publishing terms, it's brilliant," said Claire Harman, author of Jane's Fame: How Jane Austen Conquered the World. "Why did I spend three years writing a critical book on Austen? Why didn't I just think of that?"

"I made a list of things that might enhance these (classic) novels — robots, ninjas, zombies."
Quirk Books editorial director Jason Rekulak

Quirk Books editorial director Jason Rekulak said he was inspired by the Internet-unleashed wave of "creative copyright infringement."

He made a list of classic books whose copyrights have lapsed and were ripe for pillage, from Moby Dick to Great Expectations.

"Then I made a list of things that might enhance these novels — robots, ninjas, zombies," Rekulak said. "As soon as I drew a line between Pride and Prejudice and zombies, I knew I had a great title."

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Jackson tribute set for Sept. 26

Organizers of what's being billed as a global tribute to Michael Jackson in Vienna say the event will be held on Sept. 26. Jackson's brother, Jermaine, is expected to announce the lineup for the concert within two weeks. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Entertainment in brief

FEST Rumours and sources have it that Toronto will be graced with the presence of Oprah Winfrey during the Toronto International Film Festival next month, Tostar News Service reports.

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A time for Hollywood

Canadian actress McLean landing high-profile roles

Canadian actress Jane McLean is hungry to network.

After all, it was just seven years ago that she quit her job as a marketing manager in Toronto to pursue her childhood dream of acting, and she feels like she's got a bit of catching up to do.

But when she had the chance to schmooze with Hollywood megastar Brad Pitt on the set of her new movie, The Time Traveler's Wife, opening tomorrow, she inadvertently let the opportunity slip away, and she's still kicking herself.

"I actually didn't know that it was Brad Pitt when I met him," McLean, 35, who was born in the Philippines and raised in Mississauga, Ont., said wincing in a recent interview. "It was quite embarrassing."

Jane McLean, left, co-stars with fellow Canadian Rachel McAdams in The Time Traveler's Wife.

The Time Traveler's Wife opens tomorrow

Pitt is an executive producer of the highly anticipated romantic drama, about a man (Eric Bana) with a genetic anomaly that forces him to travel through time, putting a strain on his relationship with his soulmate, Clare (Canadian Rachel McAdams).

McLean plays Charisse, Clare's roommate and girlfriend to Ron Livingston's character in the feature, which is directed by Robert Schwentke and based on the bestselling novel by Audrey Niffenegger.

Pitt, recalled McLean, showed up to the set in Toronto one day. He was wearing a pageboy cap, and McLean, but she was bleary-eyed from the 12-hour workday and didn't recognize him.

When Pitt went over to introduce himself just as "Brad" and later said goodbye, she shook his hand and exchanged pleasantries, but that was that.

"So I take off, I get in the car, the driver says to me: 'Oh, that Mr. Pitt's a really nice guy,'" she said, her eyes widening.

"I thought: 'Oh my God, that was Brad Pitt!'"

McLean's first gig was a TV movie called Guilt By Association, which also starred McAdams.

Since then, she's landed roles on high-profile projects like the TV series Dexter, in which she played the girlfriend to Masuka (C.S. Lee); the 2007 film Shoot 'Em Up with Clive Owen; and the upcoming season of 24.

"I actually didn't know that it was Brad Pitt when I met him. It was quite embarassing."
Canadian actress Jane McLean

THE CANADIAN PRESS

TO	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
8/13/09 primetime	265	353	2 TVO	A Daring Flight		My Different Life		Little Dorrit		Masterworks		Diff Life
	211	331	3 GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	Big Brother 11 (Live)		The Office	The Office	House "The Right Stuff"		News
	215	343	4 OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	Omni News: Italian Edition (N)		Vivere Il	Omni News:	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	210	302	6 CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy!	India Reborn (HDTV)				CBC News: The National		The Hour
	214	344	7 CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Who Wants to Be a Millionaire		30 Rock	30 Rock	(10:01) Law & Order: UK (N)		News
	212	313	8 CTV	etalk	Hollywood	CSI: NY "Bad Beat"		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		The Listener (N) (DVS)		News
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	-	387	16 CBS	Inside Edition	Hollywood	Big Brother 11 (Live)		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		(10:01) The Mentalist		News 4 at 11
	-	385	17 NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	30 Rock	Parks-Recreat	The Office	30 Rock	Law & Order "Pledge"		News
	-	386	18 ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy!	Who Wants to Be a Millionaire		Grey's Anatomy		(10:02) Private Practice		News
	219	346	20 ACH-B	The Road to Avonlea		Greek "Spring Broke"		Grey's Anatomy		(10:02) Private Practice		A News
	-	-	28 FOX	Judge Judy	Two/Half Men	Bones (HDTV PA)		House "Last Resort"		Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61 PBS	News-Lehrer	My Hero	Doc Martin		On a Wind and a Prayer		MI-5		Business Rpt.
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news	502	390	26 NW	CBC News	Marketplace	The Hour		CBC News: The National		The Nature of Things		National
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	509	504	79 CNB	Kudlow Report		CNBC Reports		Crime & Punishment		How I Made My Millions		Mad Money
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	400	400	30 TSN	Golf: PGA Championship		SportsCentre	CFL Pregame	CFL Football Calgary Stampeders at Edmonton Eskimos. (HDTV) (Live)				
	411	457	58 OLN	Ghost Hunters		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivorman		Ghost Hunters		Bounty Hunter
	417	406	81 SC	Pimp My Ride	Pass Time	Pinks -- All Out (HDTV) (N)		Jacked! (N)	Jacked! (N)	Wrecked (N)	Wrecked	Pimp My Ride
family	551	542	25 YTV	Drake & Josh	Family Biz	Malcolm-Mid.	Futurama	In Real Life		Falcon Beach (DVS)		Mystery Hnt.
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	556	540	51 FAM	Wizards-Place	Han. Montana	Zack & Cody	Latest Buzz	Wizards-Place	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
	602	567	27 W	Style by Jury	Friends	Divine Design	House	Confidential	Save Us-House	Divine Design	Love It-List It	House
	570	580	29 MM	Dance Crew	One Tree Hill		Instant Star	America's Best Dance Crew			Degrassi: TNG	One Tree Hill
cable variety	615	520	31 A&E	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		The First 48 "Blindsided"		The First 48 (HDTV)		Crime 360 (HDTV) (N)		Crime 360
	700	800	35 TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	*Piper* (2007, Comedy) Massimo Ghini, Martina Stella.				Raymond	Raymond	George Lopez
	571	581	36 MMM	The Daily Fix		Ranked!		mmtop10.ca		Entourage	Gene Simmons	The Daily Fix
	575	583	38 CMT	Taylor Swift: One on One		Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Tuckerville
	616	521	39 SHO	The Outer Limits		Love-Death	Love-Death	*Criminal Intent* (2005, Suspense) Linda Purl.				House
	620	523	40 BVO	Storytellers	Camera	*The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz* ★★★ (1974, Comedy-Drama)					Bravonews	Law & Order
	601	562	41 SLC	Skin Deep	Til Debt-Part	Last 10	Last 10	Last 10	Last 10	Bulging Brides	Bulging Brides	ET Canada
	522	506	43 HIS	NCIS "Bury Your Dead"		Ancient Discoveries		Unlocking the Past		NCIS "Bury Your Dead"		Sea Hunters
	625	548	44 COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Comedy Now	Comedy Now	Daily Show
	600	564	46 H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Handyman Superstar		Disaster DIY	Big Amazing	House Hunters	House Hunters	Holmes-Homes
	294	529	47 TBS	Family Guy	Family Guy	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	*The Whole Ten Yards* ★ (2004, Comedy)		
	576	582	49 BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live		*Boyz N the Hood* ★★★ (1991, Drama) Larry Fishburne.				Tiny & Toya	The Game	W. Williams
	627	528	50 SPC	The Listener (N) (DVS)		Star Trek: Voyager		*Alien Agent* (2007, Science Fiction) Mark Dacascos.				Stargate SG-1
	581	566	52 MTV	MTV Cribs	After	MTV News	Cribs	True Life		Beatdown	Beatdown	MTV Live
	618	524	54 TROP	Traders		Inside Hollywood		Deal or No Deal Canada		Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld
	603	561	56 FOOD	Chef at Home	Crash-Kitchen	Restaurant Makeover		Jamie's Kitchen		Ace of Cakes	Ace of Cakes	Boys Weekend
	261	394	60 V	Murder, She Wrote		Wait for God	'Allo, 'Allo!	*Nothing Too Good for a Cowboy* (1998, Romance-Comedy)				Poltergeist
	621	527	63 STR	The Ellen DeGeneres Show		TMZ (N)	etalk	Relative Madness		Tonight Show-Conan O'Brien		TMZ
	553	546	65 TRE	Backyardigans	Nght Grdn	Max & Ruby	Franklin	Little Bear	Maggie-Beast	Comfy Couch	Zigby	Max & Ruby
	115	711	101 TVA	Dépenses xtr	Marché	Dr. House (HDTV) (SC)		Mollie "Mollywood" (SC)		TVA 22 heures	Sucré-salé	*La Descente*
	126	730	102 RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct	Le National	Le Téléjournal
	526	507	249 VIVA	Judging Amy		Most Haunted Spitbank Fort.		The Closer		Passion	Homicide File	Psychic Inv.
	300	601	301 M1	(6:45) *First Sunday* (2008, Comedy)			Nurse Jackie	*The Express* ★★ (2008, Biography) Dennis Quaid.				Penn & Teller
	305	612	306 PIX	(7:15) *Denver & Rio Grande* ★★ (1952, Western)				*Starship Troopers* ★★★ (1997, Science Fiction)				*Rhino Brothers*

critics' corner

The Express

Inspirational as many true sports dramas are, the story of Heisman Trophy winner Ernie Davis — who became the spark for Syracuse University's football team under coach Ben Schwartzwalder — boasts fine performances by Rob Brown and Dennis Quaid in the respective roles. Davis had a tragic fate at a young age, but his prowess on the playing field is re-created well by Brown and director Gary Fleder. Charles S. Dutton also appears. 9 PM on M1

The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz

He's not the sort of guy you'd want to be friends with, but you've got to admire his chutzpah. A young Richard Dreyfuss made his mark in the title role of this 1974 adaptation of Mordecai Richler's novel. A teenager from a working-class family in 1940s Montreal, Duddy is determined to make a success of himself at all costs — and he's about to find out how high that cost is. Denholm Elliott, Micheline Lanctot and Randy Quaid also star. 8 PM on BVO

Guiding Light switches off

TV The cast and crew of Guiding Light — U.S. television's longest-running soap opera — have finished shooting their final scenes in a northern New Jersey town. Afterward, they gathered at Peapack Reformed Church for a service to remember the show. The church has served as the site for weddings and funerals in Guiding Light's fictional town of Springfield.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

British invasion, at theatre near you

SCREENING The British are coming to Canadian movie theatres. The BBC's popular broadcast of The Last Night of the Proms will be presented live via satellite at Cineplex theatres on Sept. 12. The show celebrates British tradition with patriotic music of the United Kingdom.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

New HGTV series is casting homebuyers!

Two top real estate agents compete to find your dream home! If you're looking for a house in Toronto, Thornhill or Richmond Hill in August or September, email: realtor@propertelevision.com or call 416.598.2500 x248 to apply.

Paula leaves Idol door open
Paula Abdul hasn't completely closed the door on returning to American Idol. The former judge reportedly will return to the show if producers agree to pay her $10 million US a season, according to TMZ. METRO WORLD NEWS

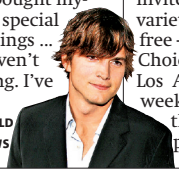
Celebrity Buzz

All my success could go: Ashton

KEEPING IT REAL Ashton Kutcher has enjoyed tremendous success, but he's still worried he could lose it all at any moment.

"You never know what happens in this business. What we do for a living is nonsense. It's entertainment," the actor tells the New York Post. "I still haven't bought myself anything special with my earnings ... Actually, I haven't spent anything. I've kept it all."

METRO WORLD NEWS



Spears kids have potty mouths?

SOAP NEEDED Britney Spears' sons shocked onlookers by swearing in public, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The singer took three-year-old Sean Preston and Jayden James, two, to a swag suite — where invited guests are invited to select a variety of goods for free — for the Teen Choice Awards in Los Angeles last weekend when the boys repeatedly shouted "oh s—!"

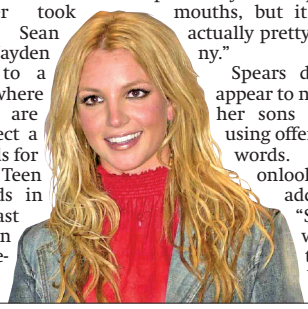
One onlooker told the New York Daily News newspaper: "We were all surprised by their potty mouths, but it was actually pretty funny."

Spears didn't appear to notice her sons were using offensive words. The onlooker added: "She was too busy picking out freebies to chastise the boys for misbehaving."

Spears, 27, has previously spoken about her children cursing, claiming they picked up the foul phrases from their father, her ex-husband Kevin Federline.

She said: "The boys are starting to learn words like 'stupid,' and Preston says the F-word now sometimes. He doesn't get it from us. He must get it from his daddy. I say it, but not around my kids."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Brangie spill sexy secrets

TOO MUCH INFORMATION Last week Brad Pitt sent tongues wagging when he told Parade that the secret stone grotto behind the waterfall in his pool is "a great place for sex." Now, his partner Angelina Jolie says that's not their only secret hideaway, usmagazine.com reports.

"Yeah, well, we got a few special places," she told Extra on the red carpet at Pitt's Inglourious Basterds premiere in Hollywood. "You keep it going."

Added Pitt, "It's not true. We have far more comfortable places to go. There is a grotto there. It's an old Hollywood property... just a few minutes that way... and rumour is Jimi Hendrix spent some time there. That's the story. I run with it."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Stars gather to mourn John Hughes

REMEMBERING A GREAT Actors Vince Vaughn, Matthew Broderick and Ben Stein were among the family and friends who attended a private funeral Tuesday in a Chicago suburb for the late director John Hughes, usmagazine.com reports.

Stein, who famously played Ferris Bueller's teacher in the '80s classic comedy, was one of the speakers at the service. He said it was "very touching" and that there was "a lot of crying."

"We'll never see his like again," Stein told reporters after the service. "He was the Wordsworth of the suburban America postwar generation. He was a great, great, great genius and as much of a friend and a great family man as he was a poet."

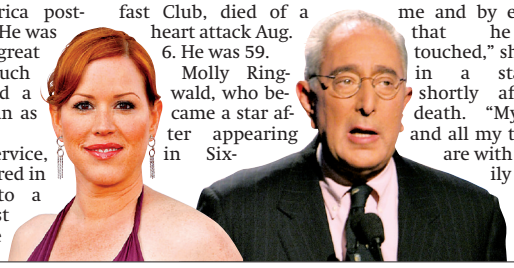
After the service, mourners gathered in a procession to a Lake Forest cemetery, where Hughes was to be laid to rest.

Hughes, known for such teen classics as Sixteen Candles and The Breakfast Club, died of a heart attack Aug. 6. He was 59.

Molly Ringwald, who became a star after appearing in Sixteen Candles in 1984, said she "was stunned and incredibly sad to hear about the death of John Hughes."

"He will be missed — by me and by everyone that he has touched," she added in a statement shortly after his death. "My heart and all my thoughts are with his family now."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



For sale: One baby

THE SURREAL While Joel Madden eagerly awaits the birth of his second child with Nicole Richie, some people obviously think he could do with a third. The Good Charlotte frontman recounted on Twitter about being offered a baby while stopped at a red light in his car. "Today some people in traffic tried to sell me a baby. A live human baby. I didn't know what to say," he wrote. "It all happened so fast. I was trying to figure out if they were serious, and I think when my reaction was not a good one. They just took off."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Paris and Doug make up

IT'S BACK ON Doug Reinhardt knows just what to do to get back in Paris Hilton's good graces: Rent a private island in Fiji.

"Love Wadigi Island, had the most incredible stay," Hilton posted on Twitter after returning from a visit with Reinhardt. "It is true paradise, so beautiful and private. It's the perfect place to vacation."

And friends say Reinhardt's attempt to rekindle things with his ex is working great. "She loves being treated like a princess so she can feel how deeply in love he is with her, and she's having a blast," a source told the Sun.

METRO WORLD NEWS

More Brad and Renée evidence

PLAIN TO SEE Renée Zellweger and Bradley Cooper don't seem to be doing a very good job of hiding their budding romance while on vacation in Barcelona.

Photographers caught the pair strolling through their hotel lobby, where Cooper placed a reassuring hand on Zellweger's behind, according to the Daily Mail. She responded by placing a hand into Cooper's back pocket.

They were later spotted embracing intimately while visiting a church.

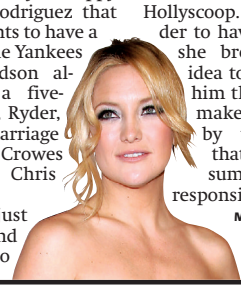
METRO WORLD NEWS

Kate wants A-Rod's baby?

RUSHING THINGS? Kate Hudson is reportedly so happy with Alex Rodriguez that she even wants to have a child with the Yankees slugger. Hudson already has a five-year-old son, Ryder, from her marriage to Black Crowes frontman Chris Robinson.

"Kate just turned 30 and she's ready to have her second child," a source said, according to Hollyscoop. "She wants Ryder to have a sibling, so she brought up the idea to Alex and told him that they would make a beautiful baby together, and that she would assume all financial responsibility."

METRO WORLD NEWS



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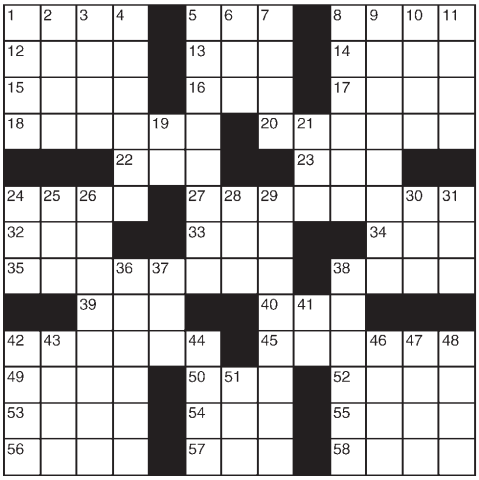

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone — one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

7	1		8	3	9			
								2
	8	6	1			3		
4				7				1
		7				9		
8				4				3
		4			1	2	6	
2								
			4	5	2		8	9

ACROSS

1 Bridge coup
5 — de deux
8 Grand tale
12 Caffeine-rich nut
13 Every crumb
14 Doily feature
15 On the rocks
16 Actor Stephen
17 Press
18 Everest guide
20 Empty
22 Have something wrong
23 Accomplished
24 Satan's minions
27 Kiss reminder
32 Earl Grey, e.g.
33 Actress Mendes
34 That woman
35 Baby carriage
38 Check
39 Honest politician?
40 Mimic
42 Kidnapper's demand
45 "You Can't — Again"
49 Clarinet's cousin
50 Flightless bird
52 Mideast airline
53 Mainlanders' mementos
54 Vast expanse
55 Ostentatious display
56 Stats for 52-Across
57 Whatever number
58 Carry

DOWN

1 Vail gear
2 Ness, e.g.
3 Sheltered
4 Curtain fabric
5 Lines that fail to meet
6 Hearty brew
7 Balkan native
8 Bring out
9 Eden
10 PC picture
11 Small change
19 Circumference divided by diameter
21 Billboards
24 "Monty Python" opener
25 Citi Field player
26 Excessive suspiciousness
28 "— Got a Secret"
29 Brazil neighbour
30 Greek X
31 Understanding
36 Haunt
37 Writer Buscaglia
38 Prepare leftovers
41 One of the Teletubbies
42 Portrayal
43 Lend an illegal hand
44 Small plateau
46 Hodgepodge
47 Shoppers' site
48 Differently
51 Chaps

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

5	6	7	8	2	9	4	3	1
2	4	9	6	1	3	8	5	7
3	8	1	7	4	5	2	6	9
6	3	5	4	9	1	7	8	2
1	2	8	3	5	7	6	9	4
7	9	4	2	6	8	3	1	5
8	5	6	1	7	4	9	2	3
4	1	2	9	3	6	5	7	8
9	7	3	5	8	2	1	4	6

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca

Metro Recipe of the Day

SARAH POMPER

Smoked Salmon, Mascarpone and Leek Pizza

Submitted by Jennifer Rigby, St. Catharines, Ont.

INGREDIENTS:

Fresh pizza dough (I buy mine at an Italian market, or make it yourself)
1 large leek, washed and green portions chopped
2 tbsp olive oil
175 g mascarpone cheese (use about 3/4 of container)
150 g package of frozen sliced wild smoked salmon, thawed
Salt and pepper

METHOD:

Using 1 tbsp oil, sauté leeks in frying pan until soft. Set aside. Roll out dough onto pizza pan. Using remaining oil, coat surface of dough.

Cover dough with sautéed leeks. Then place smoked salmon on top of leeks. I like to slightly overlap the triangular pieces of salmon so it looks like a pinwheel. In the areas not covered by the salmon, using a tablespoon, add toonie-sized dollops of mascarpone cheese. Season with salt and pepper.

Bake at 350 F until crust is cooked and cheese is melted. Enjoy with a green salad and a glass of white wine.

SERVES 4
PREP TIME: 20 MINUTES
COOK TIME: 20 MINUTES

Weekly winners

• Exclusive contest for Metro readers! Visit 20minutesupperclub.com/metro and be entered to win a $50 President's Choice gift certificate to stock your cupboards with delicious PC products. For product information and store locations, visit PC.ca. A weekly winner will be drawn from now until the end of October.

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Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Bring a half-hidden problem into the open where it can be discussed and dealt with. Today's cosmic set-up suggests all will be happy with the result.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
A page has been turned but you're not at the end of the story. What happens today and tomorrow will encourage you to keep on reading — and loving.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
An obstacle will appear in your path today and your first reaction will be to smash through it. That's the right thing to do. This is no time to be subtle.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
If you let your suspicions get the better of you today you could miss out on an enjoyable activity. The planets indicate there's no need to be defensive

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
It doesn't matter that you fought with certain folks in the past. All that matters is you're on the same side now — and if you're not, you should be.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
You may think you know what is good for others, but they must learn from their own mistakes. When others tried to tell you how to live, did you listen?

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
You'll have plenty to say for yourself today and, being such a smooth-talker, you will say it in a way that leaves no doubt as to what you mean.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
You need to get to grips with a situation that has drifted on for weeks, months, maybe years. Likely it will mean having to make an unpopular decision.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
Today you'll have courage to make difficult decisions and take the kind of risks even a Sagittarius would usually seek to avoid. But don't overdo it.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
If your current environment doesn't feel right then by all means get up and go some place else. There's no law that says you have to stay.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
Mars and Jupiter, the planets that get things done, cut across the most dynamic angles of your chart today. Aim to start your day early and finish it late.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Sometimes you lose direction and forget what all your efforts are for. Today, though, your aims are crystal clear. Keep that clarity as long as you can.

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BY TRICKY RICKY KANE

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1. Golfer Trevino's golf pegs (1)
2. Wacko's gimme-length golf shots (1)
3. Golf course units' flagsticks (1)
4. College head's rolled golf areas (1)
5. Chap's number of golf shots taken (1)
6. Pool jackknife performer's 1 woods (2)
7. Golf sand traps' old jalopies (2)

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ANSWERS
1. LEES TEES 2. NUTS PUTTS 3. HOLES POLES 4. DEANS GREENS
5. BLOKES STROKES 6. DIVERS DIVERSE 7. BUMMER CLUNKERS

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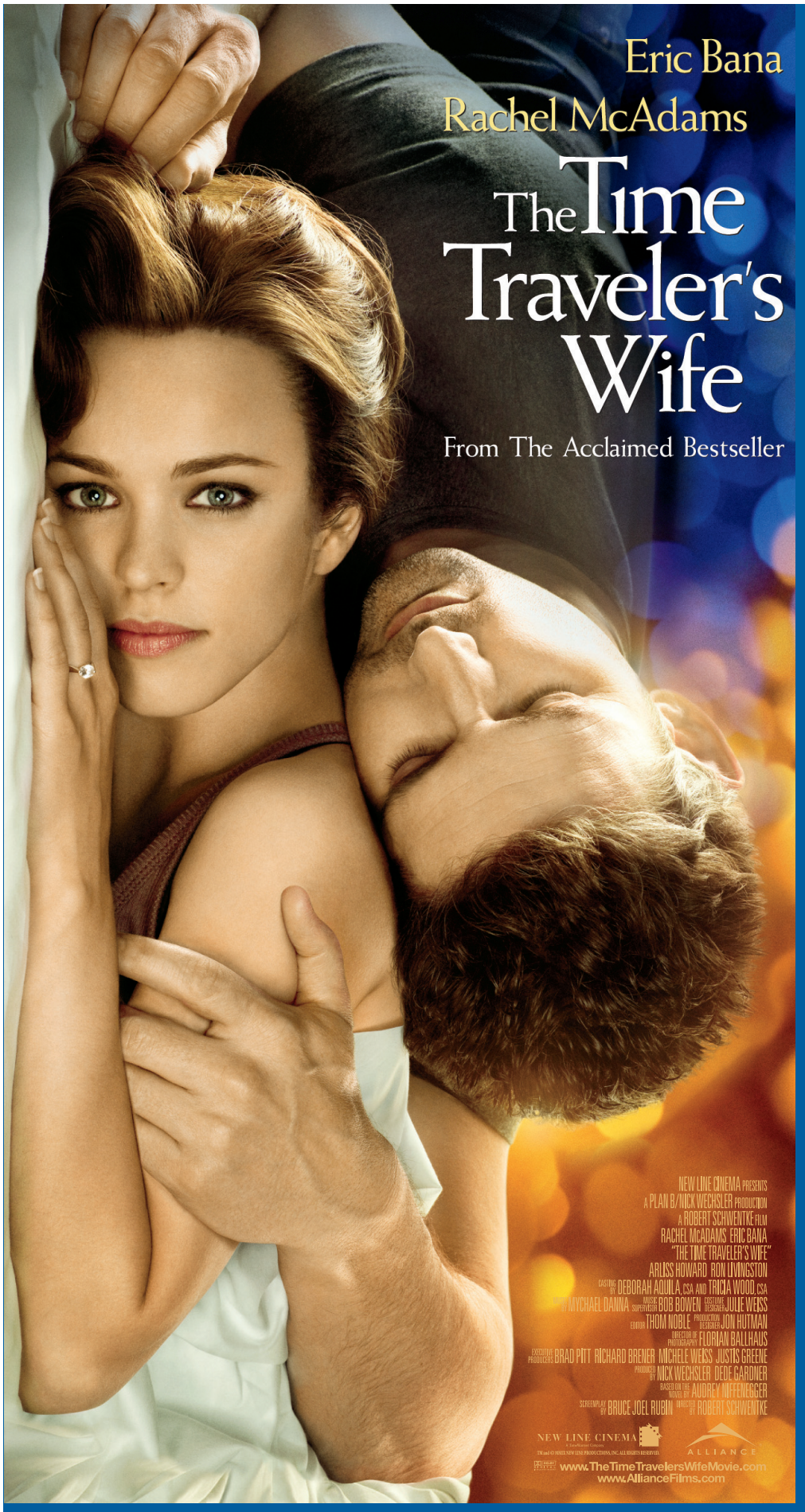

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GRADUATE RELEASE PROGRAM

"The Hyundai names, logos, product names, feature names, images and slogans are trade marks owned by Hyundai Auto Canada Corp., and used under licence. ♦Last year's starting price is the lease/finance starting price as of December 2008 for a 2009 Elantra L/2009 Accent L 3 Dr/2009 Tucson L/2009 Santa Fe 2.7L GL. Prices for models shown: 2009 Elantra Limited of $20,295/2009 Accent GL Sport of $13,895/2009 Tucson Limited of $27,495/2009 Santa Fe Limited of $32,445. ¥Prices calculated after deducting price adjustments off the lease/finance starting prices. Price adjustments of $1,000/$3,500 available on a 2009 Elantra Touring GL with Sport Package is $20,195/2010 Sonata Limited model shown is $30,499. ♦♦Delivery and Destination charges of $1,495 for 2009 Elantra/$1,495 for 2009 Elantra Touring/$1,495 for 2009 Accent/$1,765 for 2009 Tucson/$1,765 for 2010 Sonata, registration, insurance, license fees and all applicable taxes are excluded. Delivery and destination charge includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. ◊Purchase financing available O.A.C. from Hyundai Financial Services on 2009 Elantra/2009 Elantra Touring/2009 Accent/2009 Tucson/2009 Santa Fe/2010 Sonata for 2009 Elantra Touring GL/2009 Accent/2009 Tucson/2009 Santa Fe/2010 Sonata GL automatic transmission models only. Hyundai Financial Services reserves the right to withdraw this offer at any time without notice. Offer may be cancelled without notice. See dealer for complete details. Dealer may sell for less. Inventory is limited, dealer order may be required. ΩThe Hyundai Elantra received the lowest number of problems per 100 vehicles among compact cars in the proprietary J.D. Power and Associates 2009 U.S. Initial Quality Study℠ (IQS), based on responses from 80,930 U.S. new-vehicle owners, measuring 245 models and measures opinions after 90 days of ownership. Proprietary study results are based on experiences and perceptions of owners surveyed in February-May 2009. Your experiences may vary. Visit jdpower.com. †Fuel economy comparison based on combined fuel consumption rating for the 2010 Sonata GL auto (8.0L/100km) and 2009 EnerGuide combined fuel consumption ratings for the full size vehicle class. Fuel Consumption for 2010 Sonata GL automatic: HWY 6.0L/100km, 46 mpg; CITY 9.5L/100km, 30 mpg is based on manufacturer testing. Actual fuel consumption may vary based on driving conditions and the addition of certain vehicle accessories. ‡See your dealer for eligible vehicles and full details of the Graduate Relocate Program. ††Hyundai's Comprehensive Limited Warranty coverage covers most vehicle components against defects in workmanship under normal use and maintenance conditions.